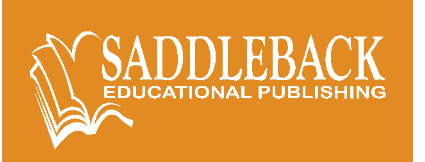


Read Reflect Respond

Nonfiction Comprehension Skill-Boosters



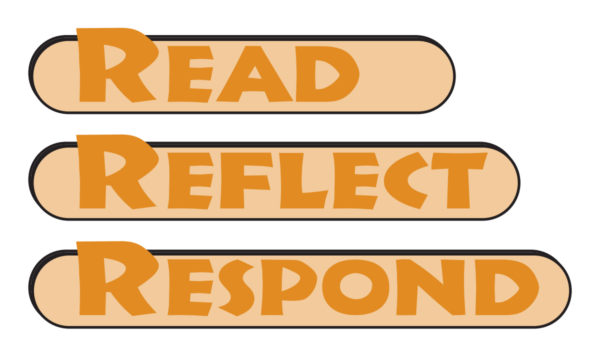




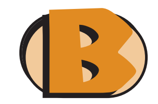
Comprehension Skill-Boosters

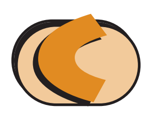


by ELLIOTT QUINLEY













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CONTENTS

A NOTE TO THE STUDENT

How well do you understand and remember what you read? Can you count on your comprehension skills to meet the challenges of today's fast-paced world? The skill-sharpening exercises in the READ•REFLECT•RESPOND books can help you build confidence as you build competence.

The purpose of reading is to connect the ideas on the page to what you already know. That's why the short reading selections in these books work to your advantage. Each reading provides a clear mental framework for ideas and information. This makes it easier for you to grasp the main idea and sort out significant details. After you complete two or three lessons, you'll become familiar with the various kinds of responses required. This familiarity will alert you to important cues in the reading material. You'll learn to focus on key vocabulary, important facts, and the core message of the content. In short, you will become a more efficient reader.

We suggest that you thumb through each book before you begin the first lesson. Notice that the readings are engaging and informative—some are lighthearted and humorous, while others are more serious and thought-provoking. Glance at the question pages to see how they're organized. "Surveying" this book (or any book) in this informal way is called "prereading." It will help you "get a fix on" the task ahead.

Happy reading!

READ: *Just how loud is too loud?*

TURN DOWN THE VOLUME!

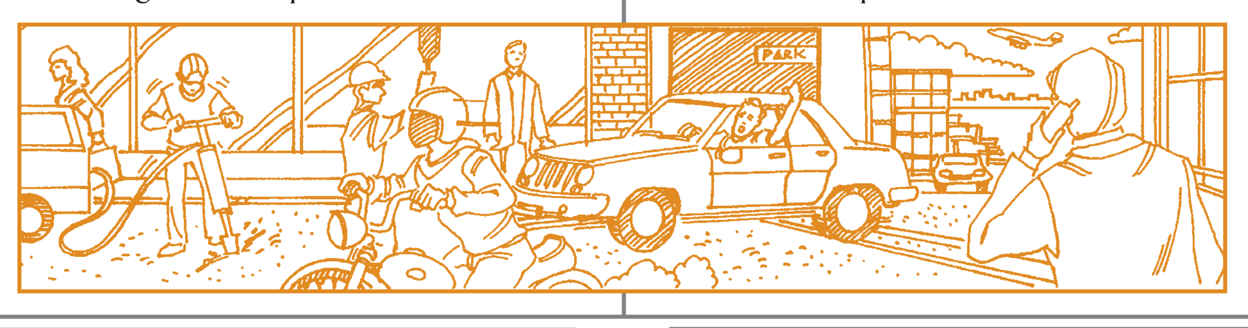
Do you prefer your music nice and LOUD? Many young people like nothing better than to cruise around town with their car's speakers blaring. But maybe you should think again before you crank up the volume!

Just like air and water pollution, noise pollution can be dangerous to your health. Why? Loud noise puts stress on the nerves in your ears. And the longer you listen to loud noise, the more likely it is that your health will be damaged permanently.

The intensity of sound is measured in decibels (dB). The sound of a person breathing, for example, is about 5 dB. But if someone shouts in your ear, the sound may reach 100 dB. Sound levels above 120 dB cause physical pain. At 140 dB, sound will break your eardrums. And at 180 dB, sound can actually kill you!

City dwellers are surrounded by loud sounds all the time. Noise from a jet flying overhead measures 123 dB. A motorcycle speeding up to pass your car may hit 104 dB. Even a car horn reaches about 120 dB.

Noise pollution affects more than your hearing. At levels above 70 dB, your blood pressure and pulse rate increase. In the long run, these conditions can lead to serious health problems.



REFLECT: *Think about the damaging effects of noise.*

1. Do you and your parents agree on how loud music should be played? If not, why not?

____

____

____

2. Name two or three loud noises you might hear on a typical day.

____

____

3. Do you think machines that make very loud noises should be prohibited by law? Explain your answer.

____

____

____

____

____

____

____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Build your vocabulary.

1. The *i*_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of something is its force or strength.
2. Touch the inside of your wrist to measure your *p*_ _ _ _ rate.
3. A harmful contamination of a natural resource is called *p*_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

Draw conclusions.

4. The letters dB are (a nickname / an abbreviation) for *decibels*.
5. Working in a noisy factory might eventually (give you a headache / make you deaf).
6. The noise level at a rock concert is (higher / lower) than the hum of a car engine.

Recall details.

7. Loud sounds stress the __________ in your ears.
8. At noise levels above __________ dB, your body shows distress.
9. Short exposures to loud noises are __________ damaging than longer exposures.
10. The reading mentions three kinds of pollution: ______________, ______________, and ____________.

Make comparisons.

11. The sound of a speeding motorcycle is about how much louder than a shout in your ear?
    a. 4 dB
    b. 40 dB
    c. 10 dB
12. Which sound is more likely to cause you physical pain?
    a. church bells ringing
    b. a jet flying overhead
    c. people laughing

State the main idea.

13. Write an original sentence summarizing the main idea of the reading.

    ____
    ____
    ____
    ____

Look it up in a reference source.

14. The English word *noise* came to us from a Latin word. What is the meaning of that Latin word?

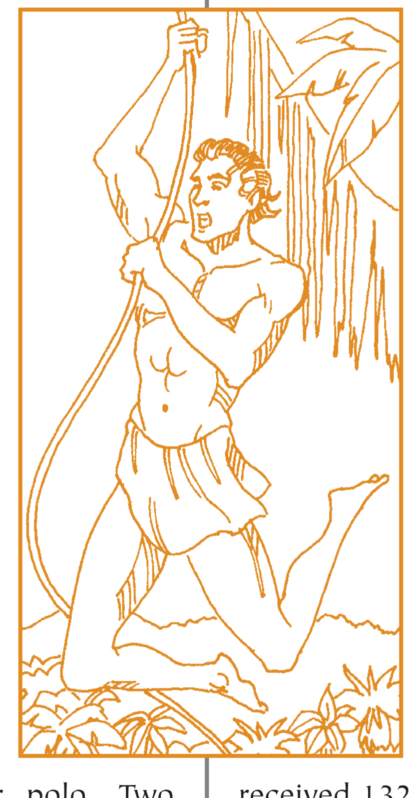
    ____
    ____

15. What's the dB level of a ringing telephone? ____________________

READ: *Learn about a cultural icon of the 1950s.*

FROM THE POOL TO THE JUNGLE

Your grandma and grandpa probably remember Johnny Weissmuller from old black-and-white movies they watched as kids. He played Tarzan in a popular series of "Tarzan of the Apes" movies.



But Johnny was famous even before he went to Hollywood. In 1922, he made history by becoming the first person to swim 100 meters in less than a minute! In 1924, Johnny competed in his first Olympics, winning three medals in one day! He won gold medals in the 100-meter freestyle and the 4x200-meter freestyle relay race. Along with the rest of the team, he won a bronze medal for water polo. Two days later, he won another gold medal in the 400-meter freestyle event.

Johnny won the 100-meter freestyle race once again at the 1928 Olympics. He also anchored the gold-medal-winning 200-meter relay team. That gave him a total of five gold medals.

Johnny was training for the 1932 Olympics when he got his start in motion pictures. He auditioned for, and easily won, the role of Tarzan. As it turned out, he was only the first of four Olympic medalists to play Tarzan in the movies.

In 1950, a group called the Sportswriters of America voted him the best swimmer of the half-century. He received 132 votes—30 more than all the other athletes combined!

REFLECT: *Think about the activities that made Johnny Weissmuller famous.*

1. Have you ever watched the Olympic Games on TV? __________
   What sport or event do you most enjoy watching?

   ____

2. Have you ever seen a Tarzan movie? What did you think of it?

   ____
   ____
   ____

3. Do you think today's Olympians swim faster or slower than Johnny Weissmuller? Explain your thinking.

   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

1. In 1924, Johnny Weissmuller competed in these four Olympic events:
   - ____________________
   - ____________________
   - ____________________
   - ____________________

2. What does an Olympic athlete win for coming in third?

   ____

3. What medals did Weissmuller win at the 1928 Olympics?

   ____

Draw conclusions.

4. About how many years ago did Weissmuller swim at the Olympic Games?

   a. 80   b. 65   c. 58

5. Why weren't Weissmuller's Tarzan movies filmed in color?

   ____

   ____

Build your vocabulary.

6. The words *movies*, *films*, and *m*__ __ __ __ __ *p*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ are synonyms.

7. To *a*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ is to try out for a part in a show.

8. The *a*__ __ __ __ __ of a relay team is the one who swims last.

Draw conclusions.

9. The Olympic Games are held every ___ years.

   a. 10   b. four   c. eight

10. The U.S. unit of measurement closest to the *meter* is the ___.

    a. yard   b. foot   c. mile

11. During the first half of the 20th century, Johnny Weissmuller was one of America's most ___ athletes.

    a. fit   b. handsome   c. popular

Match synonyms.

12. ____ remember   a. sum
13. ____ watched   b. practice
14. ____ training   c. recollect
15. ____ total   d. observed

Look it up in a reference source.

16. Where were the summer Olympic Games held in 2004?

    ____

17. How many Tarzan movies did Weissmuller make?

    ____

18. Who played Tarzan's wife, Jane, in the first six movies?

    ____

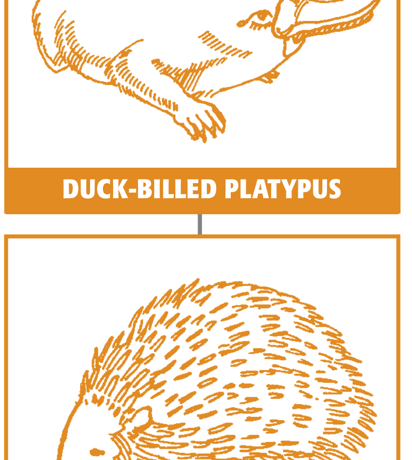
READ: *Have you ever heard of these unique creatures?*

AUSTRALIA'S "HOLDOVERS"

Some of the most unusual animals in the world live in Australia. They're called "holdovers." Why? Because they're the same today as they were millions of years ago. Today, one of these old forms of mammals is known as *monotremes*.

The platypus and the echidna, or spiny anteater, are the only two kinds of monotremes left in the world today. Like all other mammals, both of them have mammary glands to nurse their young. But unlike other mammals, these two lay eggs.

A good swimmer and diver, the platypus has a broad bill and webbed feet. It resembles a duck. But its bill is soft and leathery, not hard like a duck's. The platypus uses it to dig worms and shellfish out of river bottoms. When it is fully grown, the platypus is about two feet long. It has thick brown fur and a paddle-shaped tail, like a beaver.



DUCK-BILLED PLATYPUS

SPINY ANTEATER (ECHIDNA)

An echidna looks like a porcupine. It has a tubelike snout and a long tongue it uses to eat insects. An echidna can burrow its way out of practically anything! Thanks to its strong front feet and sharp claws, it's very difficult to constrain. Even in a zoo an echidna must be kept in a cage with a concrete floor. If there's one crack in the concrete, the echidna will dig its way out!

REFLECT: *Think about mammals and the differences among them.*

1. Human beings are also members of the class of animals called *mammals*. Name two other mammals you know.
   - ______________________
   - ______________________

2. What can the platypus and echidna do that no other mammals can do?

   ____

3. What are two important differences between humans and the animals in the reading?

   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recognize the main idea.

1. What's the most significant difference between the "holdovers" and animals in all other classes?

____

____

____

Match synonyms.

tunnel	extraordinary	restrict	dense

2. a. unusual / ____________________

   b. thick / ____________________

   c. constrain / ____________________

   d. burrow / ____________________

Recall details.

3. By what other name is the echidna known?

____

4. What two things does a platypus like to eat?

- ______________________________
- ______________________________

5. What two body parts help an echidna get food?

- ______________________________
- ______________________________

Identify characteristics:

6. Write **P** for *platypus* or **E** for *echidna*.

   a. _____ looks like a duck

   b. _____ has a tubelike snout

   c. _____ looks like a porcupine

   d. _____ swims and dives

   e. _____ has strong front feet

Make an inference.

7. Which of the animals in the reading would you rather hold in your lap? Explain.

____

____

____

____

____

8. What substance do *mammary* glands produce?

____

Look it up in a reference source.

9. List the four main characteristics of mammals.

- ______________________________
- ______________________________
- ______________________________
- ______________________________

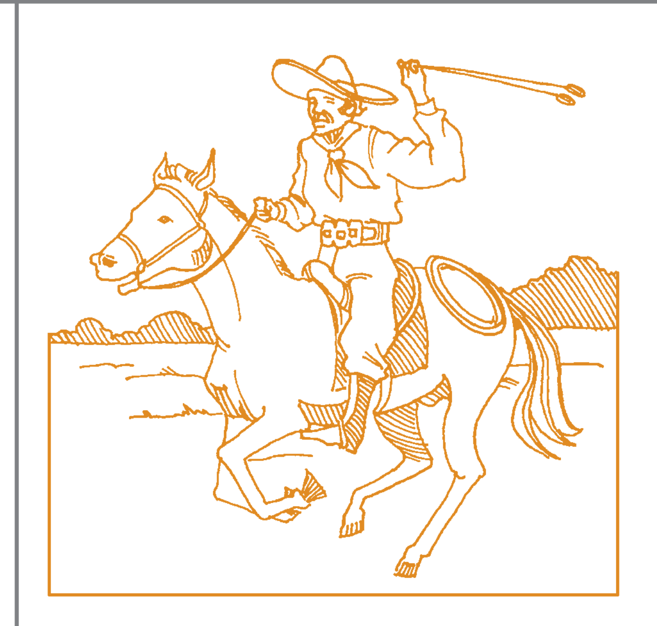
READ: *Have you ever heard of these "South of the border" cowboys?*

COWBOYS OF THE PAMPAS

The early cowboys of Latin America were called *gauchos*. Living as nomads, they rode the plains, or *pampas*, of Argentina and Uruguay. In the early days, the gauchos made their living by catching wild cattle and selling their hides on the Brazilian frontier. But gauchos also hunted and tamed wild horses. Sometimes they took work for a while on an *estancia*, or cattle ranch.

The gauchos wore baggy pants called *bombachas*, short boots, and wide, black hats called *sombreros*. Colorful, blanket-like *ponchos* served as coats on cold nights. Like the North American cowboy, the gaucho wore a handkerchief around his neck. He could pull the handkerchief up to protect his nose from the dust of a cattle stampede. He could also use the handkerchief to filter water from a stream. A wide belt, often trimmed in silver, completed the traditional gaucho costume.

Gauchos were fine fighters. A gaucho cavalry—an army on horseback—helped Argentina win independence from Spain in 1816. Seldom carrying guns, they were



proud of their skills with a knife and a *bola*. This was a long, rawhide strap with two or three iron balls tied to its split ends. A flying bola would wrap around a horse's legs and fling it to the ground.

New refrigerator ships developed the meat industry and made cattle raising a big business. This ended the gaucho's way of life. But the gaucho is not forgotten. At festivals, South American cowboys still honor him. They wear his colorful clothing and sing his ballads of the pampas.

REFLECT: *What would it have been like to be a gaucho?*

1. In your opinion, what would be the *best* thing about being a gaucho?

   ____

   ____

   What would be the *worst* thing?

   ____

   ____

2. Would physical fitness be an important "job qualification" for a gaucho? Why or why not?

   ____

   ____

   ____

   ____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

1. The gauchos lived in the ___ century.

   a. 21st b. 11th c. 19th

2. How did the gauchos profit from the wild cattle they caught?

   a. They shipped them overseas.

   b. They created dairy herds.

   c. They sold the cattle hides.

3. A gaucho's ___ was a long rawhide strap.

   a. bola b. poncho c. pampas

4. From whom did Argentina win its independence?

   a. Uruguay

   b. Spain

   c. France

5. The invention of ___ ended the gauchos' way of life.

   a. semitrailer trucks

   b. modern stockyards

   c. refrigerator ships

Build your vocabulary.

6. People who continually move from place to place are called *n*__ __ __ __ __ .

7. A *f*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ is the part of a settled country next to a wilderness.

8. A *s*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ is a sudden rush of many animals.

Draw a conclusion.

9. Why would a gaucho want to "filter water from a stream"?

   ____

   ____

Match synonyms.

10. ____ worked a. customary

11. ____ fling b. labored

12. ____ festival c. hurl

13. ____ ballads d. celebration

14. ____ traditional e. songs

Say it in Spanish. *(Write the Spanish word that matches each description.)*

15. ______________: wide-brimmed hat

16. ______________: blanket-coat

17. ______________: plains

18. ______________: ranch

19. ______________: baggy pants

Look it up in a reference source.

20. Name the capitals of Argentina and Uruguay.

    Argentina:

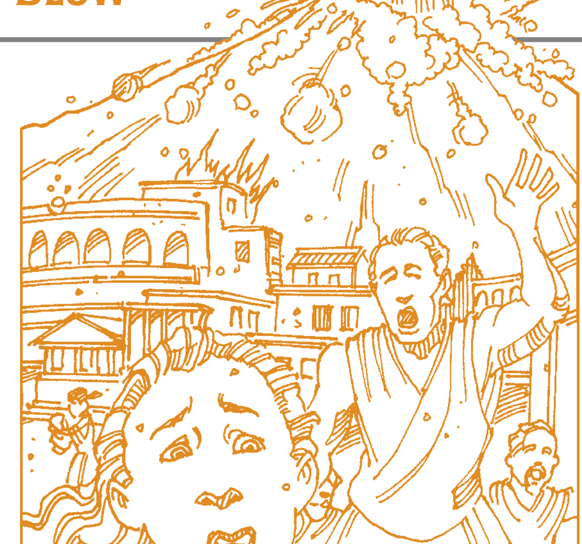
    ____

    Uruguay:

    ____

READ: *Learn about an ancient natural disaster.*

THE BIG BLOW



It happened right around 7:00 A.M. on August 24, 79 A.D. Mount Vesuvius, just seven miles from Naples, Italy, erupted! The volcano had been quiet for hundreds of years. In fact, people were so sure it was dead, they'd planted crops and grapevines on its slopes.

Then suddenly, great explosions of ash and rock blew out of the volcano. A huge cloud formed from the blasted rocks, ash, and sulfur gas. As the cloud spread, it showered ashy rocks for miles and miles. For 40 hours, the volcano continued to explode. A steady rain of ash continued hours longer. By the time the downpour was finally over, nearly 20 feet of volcanic ash and stone had been piled on the city of Pompeii!

Twenty thousand people lived in Pompeii, a busy seaport just one mile from Mount Vesuvius. Shops were opening for the day's business when the residents first heard the rumblings. The bright morning turned darker and darker as the dense cloud hid the sun. Citizens stumbled toward the shore, hoping to escape by sailing away. But only a few made it to the boats. At least two thousand people were killed that day. No one has ever lived in Pompeii again.

An eyewitness account of Pompeii's disaster was written by the Roman author, Pliny the Younger. His uncle, Pliny the Elder, was killed during the eruption.

REFLECT: *Think about how you would react to a natural disaster.*

1. Which type of disaster might be easier to escape—a flood or an erupting volcano? Explain your reasoning.

____

____

2. What special belongings would you try to save if you knew a natural disaster was about to occur?

____

____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Number events in order.

1. Number the events to show the order in which they happened.

    ____ An eyewitness wrote about the eruption.

    ____ Residents of Pompeii heard a rumbling sound.

    ____ Grapevines were planted on the slopes of Vesuvius.

    ____ Pompeii was buried under 20 feet of volcanic ash.

    ____ A steady rain of ash and rocks fell on Pompeii.

Recall details.

2. What materials made up the cloud that formed over Pompeii?

    ____

    ____

3. How long did the eruption last?

    ____

4. Approximately how many people were killed?

    ____

5. How did the people try to escape?

    ____

6. What Roman author saw the eruption with his own eyes?

    ____

Match synonyms.

erupted	account	residents	dead	shore

7. a. report / ______________

    b. inhabitants / ______________

    c. extinct / ______________

    d. beach / ______________

    e. exploded / ______________

Look it up in a reference source.

8. Nearly 75 percent of the world's active volcanoes lie along the so-called "Ring of Fire." What territory is covered by the Ring of Fire?

    ____

    ____

    ____

    ____

    ____

    ____

    ____

    ____

    ____

    ____

    ____

9. Name two other ancient cities that were buried along with Pompeii that day.

    - ______________________________
    - ______________________________

READ: *How were new products advertised in past centuries?*

COME TO THE FAIR!

In 1851, six million people came to the first world's fair. From all over the world, fairgoers flocked to London. All were eager to see what their own country—and 39 other countries—had to show one another. Visitors were amazed at some of the new inventions on display. In honor of the fair, a man named Sax had invented a new musical instrument—the saxophone. And the United States proudly exhibited a new kind of gun—the Colt revolver.

Noting the success of the London fair, other countries followed England's lead in later years. The telephone and the typewriter were introduced at the 1876 fair in Philadelphia. The steam engine was also unveiled. In fact, it provided power for all the fair's machinery! All three inventions showed the scientific progress the United States had made in its first 100 years.

In 1893, Chicago hosted a huge fair. In honor of that six-month event, a man named Ferris built an astonishing new contraption. Many potential riders were afraid of risking their lives at first. But the Ferris wheel proved to be very popular in spite of their fears.



The 1904 fair in St. Louis celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. As at other fairs, technical and cultural advances were highlighted. Sidelights included the introduction of iced tea and the ice cream cone.

REFLECT: *Think about fairs, carnivals, or amusement parks you've visited.*

1. Circle four adjectives that describe a big fair.

   sedate   bustling   enticing   solemn   crowded   diverse   repetitive   horrendous

2. Think about fairgoers of 100 years ago. How might they react to today's high-tech products?

   ____

   ____

3. What rides do you most enjoy at a fair? What foods?

   ____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

1. How many countries exhibited goods at the first World's Fair?
   a. 60   b. 45   c. 40

2. What invention was introduced at the London fair?
   a. steam engine
   b. Colt revolver
   c. horse cart

Draw conclusions.

3. In what year did the United States declare its independence?

   ____

4. In what state was the 1904 World's Fair held?

   ____

5. What two foods became popular at the St. Louis fair?
   - ______________________________
   - ______________________________

Match antonyms.

mourned	reluctant	failure	humbly

6. a. proudly / ________________
   b. eager / ________________
   c. celebrated / ________________
   d. success / ________________

Build your vocabulary. (Unscramble the words.)

7. A NOPARTONCIT ________________ is a strange-looking device or machine that is hard to understand.

8. A LURATLUC ________________ advance is an improvement in the ideas, skills, art, or tools of a certain people at a certain time.

9. An RASYREVNAIN ________________ is the date on which something happened in an earlier year.

10. CHANTLICE ________________ advances are improvements in useful or industrial arts or skills.

11. To NULIVE ________________ something is to reveal or display it for the first time.

12. A DIGITHELS ________________ is an activity or object that is less important than the main attraction.

Look it up in a reference source.

13. What towering structure was built to symbolize the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle, Washington?

    ____

14. What international sporting event was held in St. Louis at the same time as the fair?

    ____

READ: *There's something special in the Black Hills of South Dakota!*

WASHING FAMOUS FACES

After nearly 80 years, the familiar granite faces of four American presidents were seriously dirty. That's why, in the summer of 2005, Mount Rushmore got its first cleaning ever.

Located in the Black Hills of South Dakota, the towering national memorial was designed by Gutzon Borglum. He started the project in 1927 and worked on it until his death in 1941. Borglum's son Lincoln completed the enormous, hillside sculpture. Since then, millions of visitors have come to see this "largest work of art on earth."

Just how big is it? Each face is 60 feet high. That's as tall as a five-story building! (By comparison, the head on the Statue of Liberty is 17 feet tall.) The presidents' noses are 20 feet long. Each president's mouth is 18 feet wide, and each eye is 11 feet across.

What did workers find on the faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt? Layer upon layer of grit, dust, and dirt—as well as tiny, mossy plants called *lichens*. No soap, chemicals, or bleaches were used in the cleaning process. The job was done with plain old hot water blasted from a hose!

Every day for three weeks, 15 workers rappelled down the faces at 6:00 A.M. They worked until about noon, when the heat and the wind became too intense. Most of the time, the job was as smooth as Lincoln's broad brow. But some spots were tricky. Washington's scarf, for example, was accessible only by dangling in the thin air beneath his chin!

REFLECT: *Think about the purpose of national monuments and memorials.*

1. Have you ever visited a national monument or memorial? ________________
   Which one? ________________________________

2. In what other way might a nation honor a person's contribution to his or her country? Use your imagination.

   ____

3. If you could add one more president to the Mount Rushmore memorial, which one would it be? Explain why.

   ____

   ____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

1. What living things were growing on Mount Rushmore's famous faces?

   ____

2. Which four presidents appear on Mount Rushmore?
   - ______________________________
   - ______________________________
   - ______________________________
   - ______________________________

3. Who designed the Mount Rushmore memorial?

   ____

Compare and contrast.

4. How much taller are the Mount Rushmore heads than the head on the Statue of Liberty?

   ____

Build your vocabulary.

5. To r__ __ __ __ __ is to hold onto a rope as you climb down a cliff.

6. A statue or holiday meant to remind people of a past event or person is called a m__ __ __ __ __ __ __ .

7. G__ __ __ __ __ __ is a very hard type of rock used for buildings and monuments.

8. Something that can be approached or reached is said to be a__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ .

9. A p__ __ __ __ __ __ is a method of doing something, usually by taking several steps.

True or false. (Write **T** or **F.**)

10. ____ Gutzon Borglum probably taught his son how to sculpt.

11. ____ A special chemical was used to clean the granite faces.

12. ____ Mount Rushmore is a popular destination for vacationers.

Identify synonyms.

Complete each pair by adding a synonym from the box.

finished	gigantic	recognizable	strong

13. intense / ______________________
14. enormous / ______________________
15. completed / ______________________
16. familiar / ______________________

Look it up in a reference source.

17. Where is the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial located?

    ____

18. In what year was it dedicated?

    ____

Read: *Learn more about two of Earth's fellow planets.*

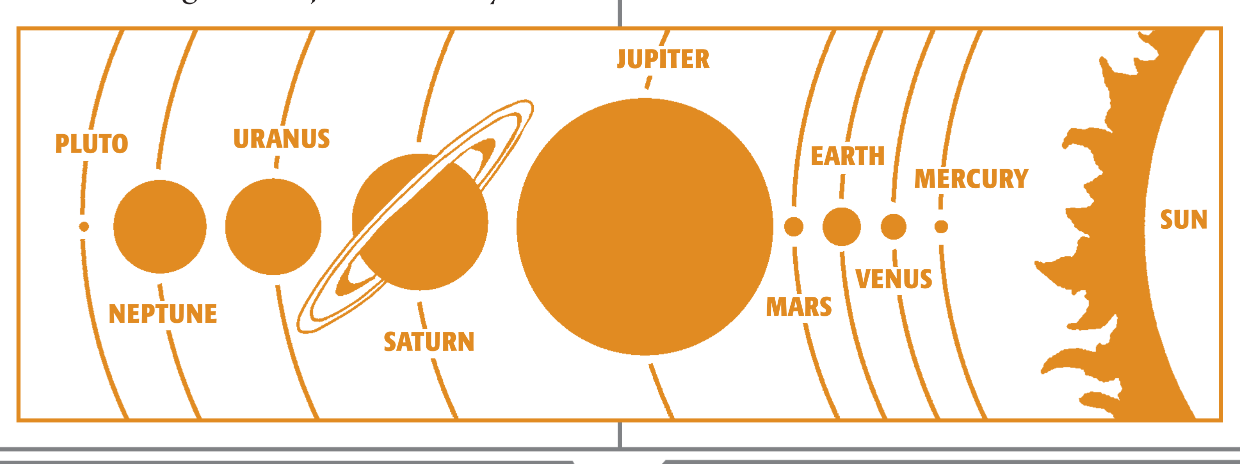
COMPARING PLANETS: HOTTEST AND COLDEST

Which of the known planets in our solar system has the hottest surface? Venus is by far the hottest. Its average daytime temperature is 870 degrees Fahrenheit. That's nearly 20 times hotter than the average temperature on Earth!

Venus is almost as large as Earth. About every year and a half, it is closer to Earth than any other planet. A thick layer of clouds floats in the atmosphere around Venus. This planet has great power to reflect light—eight times as much power as the moon! After the sun and moon, Venus is the third brightest object in the sky.

Pluto, the smallest planet in our solar system, is also the coldest. The average daily surface temperature on this planet is -370 degrees F. Pluto has a faint, yellowish color and reflects light very poorly. Its mass is about one-tenth that of Earth.

Usually, Pluto is the farthest planet from the sun. But about every 250 years, its orbit changes and brings it closer to the sun than Neptune. Pluto is a cold, dry planet with no atmosphere. Life as we know it could not exist there. The ninth planet in our solar system, it was the last to be discovered.



Reflect: *Think about traveling into outer space.*

1. If you could reserve a spot on the next space shuttle, would you take it? Explain why or why not.

____

____

____

2. Have you ever visited a planetarium or an observatory? What was it like?

____

____

____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details. *(Write **V** for Venus or **P** for Pluto.)*

1. ____ hottest
2. ____ dry
3. ____ smallest
4. ____ closest to Earth
5. ____ farthest from the sun
6. ____ has an atmosphere
7. ____ has no atmosphere

Draw conclusions.

8. The symbol and letter °F stand for ______________________________

9. How many planets are known to be in our solar system? __________

10. What planet is farthest from the sun when Pluto's orbit changes? ______________________________

11. What are the two brightest objects in the sky?
    - ______________________________
    - ______________________________

12. What is the approximate average temperature on Earth? ______________________________

Build your vocabulary. *(Unscramble words from the reading.)*

13. A planet's TROBI ______________ is the path it follows around another object in space.

14. An object's SAMS ______________ is the amount of matter it contains.

15. A TANFI ______________ color is weak or dim—not strong and clear.

16. The CRAFUES ______________ of something is its outer face.

17. You get an GEARAVE ______________ number by dividing the sum of two or more quantities by the number of quantities added.

18. The Earth's SMOTAREHEP ______________ includes all the air around it.

Activate prior knowledge.

19. Our solar system is in the M__ __ __ __ W__ __ galaxy.

Look it up in a reference source.

20. On which two objects in space have American spacecrafts landed?
    - ______________________________
    - ______________________________

21. Mercury is closer to the sun than Venus. Why is Venus hotter than Mercury?

____

____

____

____

READ: ***This fish outweighed three big men!***

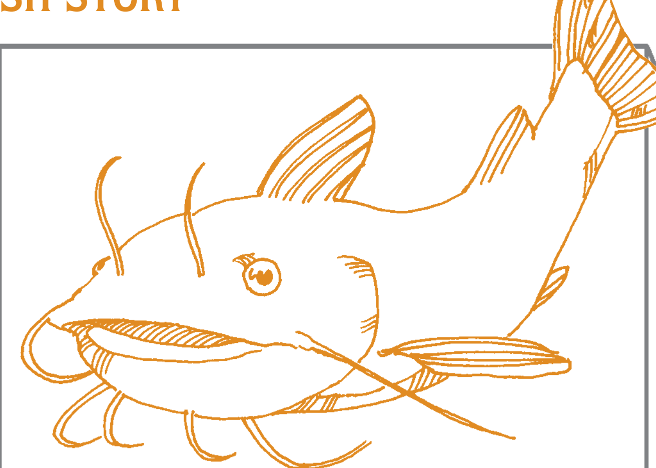
A TRUE FISH STORY

What a catch! It took five boatmen an hour to pull it in and 10 men to lift it. It was a rare giant catfish the size of a grizzly bear! At nine feet long and 646 pounds, it may be the biggest freshwater fish ever recorded.

Thai fishermen landed the leviathan in May 2005 in the Mekong River. The 2,700-mile-long Mekong has seven species of giant fish—more than any other river. Like river fish around the world, all of these creatures are threatened by overfishing, pollution, and uncontrolled development.

Scientists say the Mekong giant catfish may be the first to disappear from the river. More than 60 a year were caught in the 1990s. The scattered handful that remain are spotted only in central Cambodia. This is just below the Golden Triangle, where Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar (Burma) meet.

No one knows for sure which species of river fish is the biggest. Candidate species



grow to at least 200 pounds or six feet in length. Some of these are sturgeon, lungfish, gars, stingrays, carp, salmon, perch, and paddlefish. Until the Mekong catfish was caught, a 15-foot, 450-pound arapaima held the unconfirmed record. It was caught in the Amazon.

According to law, the Mekong catfish was turned over to the Department of Fisheries. There its eggs were harvested as part of a captive breeding program. Then the monster fish was returned to the fishermen. They cut it into giant steaks and sold it!

REFLECT: ***Think about fish and their environment.***

1. Have you or someone you know ever caught a big fish? ____________________
   About how big was it? ____

2. How do you think the catfish got its name? (Hint: Think about its face.)
   ____

3. Name two kinds of things that might cause river pollution.
   • ____________________ • ____________________

4. What river is closest to where you live? ____________________

RESPOND: *Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.*

Recall details.

1. The record-breaking catfish was caught in (China / Cambodia).
2. The (Golden Triangle / Silver Circle) is the junction of Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos.
3. In the Mekong River, there are (9 / 7) species of giant fish.
4. The record-breaking catfish was caught in (March / May) 2005.

Make comparisons.

5. How much more did the catfish weigh than the previous record-holder?

____

6. The Mississippi River is 2,340 miles long. How much longer or shorter is the Mekong River?

____

Match antonyms.

plentiful	protected	wild

7. captive / ______________________
8. rare / ______________________
9. threatened / ______________________

Build your vocabulary.

10. A *s*__ __ __ __ __ __ is a group of animals or plants that are alike in certain ways.
11. Anything that is huge or extremely powerful might be called a *l*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ (named after a sea dragon in the Bible).
12. A *c*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ is one who is being considered for an award or office.

Complete the synonyms.

13. globe / *w*__ __ __ __
14. caught / *l*__ __ __ __ __
15. sure / *c*__ __ __ __ __ __
16. disappear / *v*__ __ __ __ __

Look it up in a reference source.

17. What's the weight of the largest chinook salmon ever caught?

____

In what river was it caught?

____

18. There are many different types of catfish. List at least six types.

- ______________ • ______________
- ______________ • ______________
- ______________ • ______________

19. The clarias catfish has two unusual abilities. What are they?

- ______________________________
- ______________________________

READ: *How would America keep track of its "horseless carriages"?*

THE FIRST LICENSE PLATES

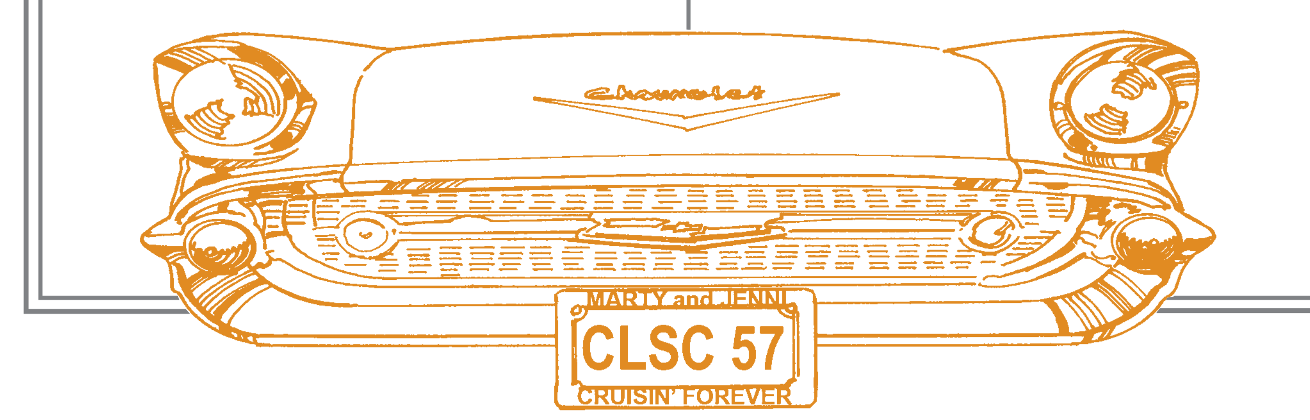
Few people know the name of America's first gas-powered automobile. It was the 1891 Lambert car invented by John W. Lambert. After that, "car fever" in America caught on fast!

By 1900, there were 8,000 "horseless carriages" nationwide. Already these newfangled inventions were running into each other, damaging property, and scaring horses and pedestrians alike. Obviously, more control was needed.

In 1901, New York was the first state to require vehicle owners to register their machines. The cost? One dollar. And in return for that dollar, each owner was issued a license plate. These first, simple license plates were about three inches high and stamped with the owner's initials.

Before long, all the states required license plates. The early plates came in a variety of materials and designs. Some were porcelain (Delaware). Others were steel, tin, aluminum, or even copper (Arizona). When metal became scarce during World War II, some license plates were made of wood. And a few states, such as Wyoming, used soybean-based fiberboard—briefly. When the soybean-based plates became popular with goats, the use of that material was discontinued.

Today's vehicle owners can still have their initials on their license plates. In fact, higher-cost "vanity plates" can carry just about any tasteful message. One medical student, for example, has a plate that reads DR2B. A frozen food salesman's plate says TVDNR 1, and a dentist once ordered a plate proclaiming himself a 2THDOC!



REFLECT: *Think about the value of license plates.*

1. Name two ways a state benefits by issuing license plates.
   - ______________________
   - ______________________

2. If you were ordering a "vanity plate," what would you want it to say? ______________________

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

1. America's first gas-powered car was invented in
   a. 1888. b. 1891. c. 1975.

2. What was stamped on the first license plates?
   a. the builder's initials
   b. the dealer's initials
   c. the owner's initials

3. What three kinds of metal were used to make early license plates?
   a. steel, iron, uranium
   b. copper, bronze, silver
   c. tin, steel, aluminum

4. What state once issued fiberboard license plates?
   a. Ohio
   b. Michigan
   c. Wyoming

Drawing conclusions.

5. Why was metal scarce during World War II?
   a. The factories were shut down.
   b. Metal was used for planes and tanks.
   c. Metal workers had become soldiers.

6. Why were the fiberboard plates "popular with goats"?
   a. Goats admired the colors.
   b. Goats liked to eat them.
   c. No one ever knew.

7. Why are "vanity plates" more expensive than regular license plates?
   a. They must be made to order.
   b. They're all made by hand.
   c. The paints are more costly.

Build your vocabulary. *(Unscramble the words.)*

8. DEEPSTRAINS ________________ are people who are traveling on foot.

9. NAILCORPE ________________ is a kind of fine, white, hard earthenware.

10. Something that's STUFLATE ________________ shows good judgment about what is proper or beautiful.

11. A CHILEVE ________________ is something like a car or bus that carries people and things from one place to another.

Look it up in a reference source.

12. In 1900, there were 8,000 cars nationwide. In 1950, how many cars were registered in the United States?

    ____

13. From a collector's viewpoint, which is the rarest U.S. license plate?

    ____

READ: *This animal can actually generate energy!*

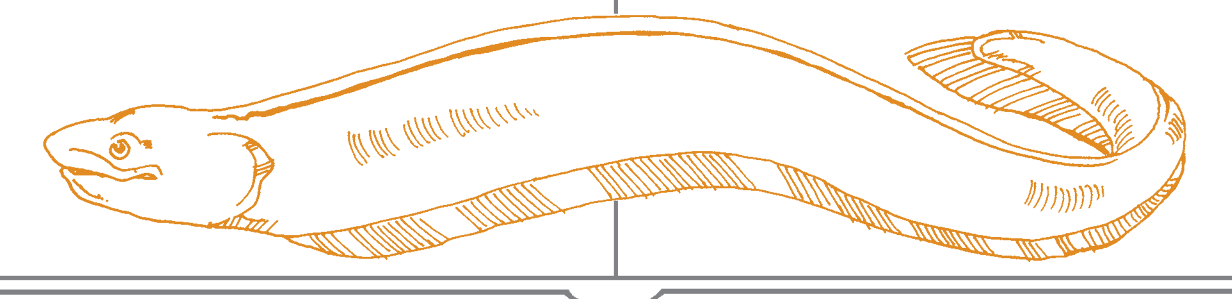
THE ELECTRIC EEL: A SHOCKING STORY

For one thing, the electric eel is not a true eel. It's a fish related to the carp and catfish. Like its relatives, the six- to nine-foot creature thrives in shallow, muddy waters. Where does it live? The electric eel is native to the Amazon and Orinoco rivers in South America.

The electric eel's flattened head and long, snaky body make it look like an eel. But inside, it is quite different. Most of its organs lie in the front fifth of its body. The other four-fifths houses the organs that make electric current. Like the plates in a battery, the tissues in these organs are arranged in layers. The current the eel produces flows from the head to the tail.

How does the fish take advantage of its ability to produce electricity? The eel uses it to catch food and protect itself from enemies. Its electric discharge stuns and kills its prey. When the eel touches both its head and its tail to other animals, it sends electric shocks through their bodies! Since electric eels have no teeth, they eat their prey whole.

When it becomes excited, an electric eel produces strong shocks in sets of three to five. Each impulse lasts only a tiny fraction of a second. But it can keep the impulses up for a long time—perhaps for hours. These discharges usually reach 200 to 300 volts. This is enough power to light a neon lamp or stun a man—or even a horse! Some unusual electric eels have even been known to discharge 500 to 800 volts.



REFLECT: *Think about the electric eel's environment.*

1. Would you be more likely to see an eel in an *aviary* or an *aquarium*? Why?

____

____

____

____

2. Circle four words that might be used to describe an electric eel.

bulky	herbivorous	slender	domestic	wriggling
extinct	carnivorous	aquatic	nocturnal	winged

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

1. How does an electric eel benefit from its electrical discharges?
   a. It protects itself.
   b. It finds food.
   c. both a and b

2. The electric eel is related to the
   a. snake and lizard.
   b. electric motor.
   c. carp and catfish.

3. The electric eel eats its prey whole because it
   a. can digest anything.
   b. has no teeth.
   c. has a stretchy stomach.

Identify multiple-meaning words from the reading.

4. To ____________________ means
   1. to rest in a flat position, *and*
   2. to say something that's not true.

5. An ____________________ is
   1. a musical instrument with keys and pedals, *and* 2. a body part with a special purpose.

6. The word _______________ means
   1. present or most recent, *and*
   2. the flow of electricity through a conductor.

Draw a conclusion.

7. A _______________ is a unit for measuring the force of an electric current.

Build your vocabulary.

8. To *t*_ _ _ _ _ is to grow in a strong, healthy way.

9. *T*_ _ _ _ _ _ made up of cells form some part of every plant or animal.

10. You *s*_ _ _ something when you make it dazed or unconscious.

11. You are *n*_ _ _ _ _ to a place if you were born there or belong there naturally.

12. A *f*_ _ _ _ _ _ _ of something is a part of it.

13. A *n*_ _ _ lamp glows when an electrical current is sent through it.

Find the antonym.

14. What word in the reading names the opposite of *predator*?

    ____

Look it up in a reference source.

15. What's the biggest difference between conger eels and moray eels?

    ____
    ____
    ____
    ____
    ____

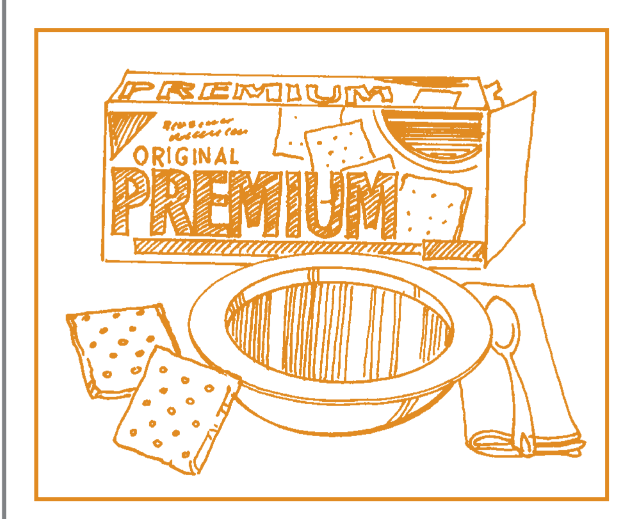
READ: *Learn more about a favorite snack.*

CRACKERS: A HUMBLE HISTORY

What's the origin of the common cracker? Actually, the first recognizable crackers were made in 1792. They were the handiwork of John Pearson of Newburyport, Massachusetts.

Pearson called them *pilot bread*. Made from two simple ingredients—flour and water—pilot bread had a long shelf life. And it stacked easily in barrels aboard sailing ships. Pearson's pilot bread quickly became a staple of nautical life. Sailors of the day sometimes called pilot bread *hardtack*, or *sea biscuit*.

In 1801, another Massachusetts baker overcooked a batch of dinner biscuits. The baker, Josiah Bent, groaned when he surveyed the damage in his brick oven. But as he looked on in dismay, he heard a distinct crackling sound coming from the baking sheets! A true entrepreneur, Bent christened his overdone wafers "crackers." After packing them up, he set off. His mission? To convince the rest of the world of his crackers' crunchy charms.



By 1810, nearly all ships stocked barrels of crackers. Josiah Bent's business was booming! Rival John Pearson was also having great success with his pilot bread. In 1898, his business became the National Biscuit Company. In later years, Josiah Bent's enterprise was sold to the same company. Today, that company is known as Nabisco.

REFLECT: *Think about the invention of crackers.*

1. Name three of your favorite kinds of crackers.

   • ____________________ • ____________________ • ____________________

2. You just read that crackers were invented by accident. Did you ever make an interesting discovery as a result of an accident? Tell about a mistake that turned out to be a good thing.

   ____

   ____

   ____

   ____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

1. Pilot bread was also known as (hardtack / flatbread).
2. On a ship, crackers were stored in a (box / barrel).
3. (Pearson / Bent) made the first pilot bread.
4. (Pearson / Bent) came up with the name "crackers."

Identify synonyms.

5. ____	named	a.	convince
6. ____	competitor	b.	distinct
7. ____	persuade	c.	rival
8. ____	clear	d.	christened

Draw conclusions.

9. (Sailors / Bakers) lived a "nautical life."
10. Crackers have been widely available for about (120 / 200) years.
11. The first crackers were created on America's (west / east) coast.
12. A product with a long (shelf / half) life doesn't get stale quickly.

Identify multiple-meaning words. *(Unscramble the words.)*

13. PLEATS / ____________________:
    1. regularly used food or other common item; 2. U-shaped piece of metal wire with pointed ends
14. OGNIMBO / ____________________:
    1. making a deep, hollow sound like a bass drum; 2. growing suddenly and rapidly
15. SIMOSIN / ____________________:
    1. a person's special task, duty, or errand; 2. a church built in a foreign country

Build your vocabulary.

16. The *o*__ __ __ __ __ of something is its beginning or the place from which it comes.
17. An *e*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ is one who risks his or her own money and time to organize a business venture.
18. To *s*__ __ __ __ __ something is to look it over carefully.

Look it up in a reference source.

19. When were graham crackers first created? Who created them?

    WHEN: ______________________________

    WHO: ______________________________

READ: *Talk about bungled burglaries!*

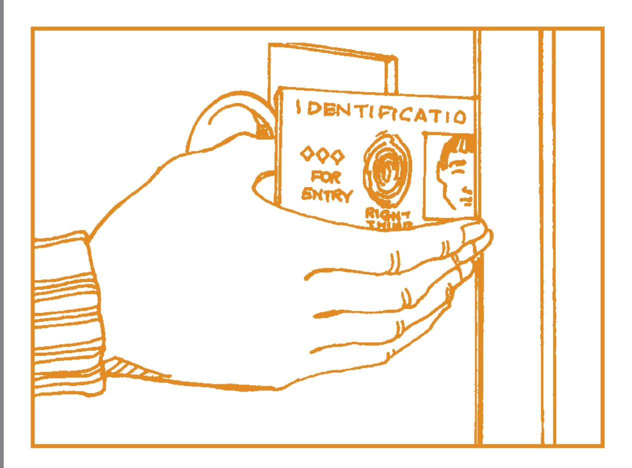
CARELESS CROOKS

Most criminals are far from being "masterminds." Some are even outright bunglers! These two recent stories help prove that "crime doesn't pay."

In Long Beach, California, one petty criminal let his nerves get the best of him. When he entered the grocery store, all he wanted was to cash a bad check for $10. But the clerk hesitated. He didn't recognize the man as a regular customer. Even after the stranger produced identification, the clerk sensed that the fellow was unusually agitated. So he refused to accept the check.

Infuriated, the man pulled out a pistol and emptied the cash drawer of more than a thousand dollars. He'd only wanted 10 dollars, and now he had 100 times that much! But he never had a chance to spend it. Why? The police were waiting on his doorstep when he returned home. All of his identification was in his wallet—which he had left on the grocery store counter!

After lots of practice, a crook in New York thought he had a foolproof scheme.



He'd learned to open most locked doors with a credit card or almost any stiff piece of plastic. His scheme always worked—until the night he left his wallet with his credit cards at home!

Checking his pockets, he found his laminated employee identification card. *What a stroke of luck,* he thought to himself. As always, he inserted the card and started to jimmy the lock. But the card got stuck inside the lock. And, worse yet, a piece of it broke off when he tried to pull it out! Unfortunately for him, his photograph and thumbprint were on the fragment. It didn't take long for the police to track him down.

REFLECT: *Think about the nature of crime and criminals.*

1. Circle three words that describe the two careless crooks.

   righteous
   unsuccessful
   fortunate
   homicidal
   inept
   vain
   lucky
   foolish

2. Name two good ways to protect your apartment or house from burglars.

   • ______________________________
   ____
   • ______________________________
   ____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Number events in order.

1. In the first story, the criminal

   ____ emptied the cash drawer.

   ____ wrote a check for $10.00.

   ____ was arrested by the police.

   ____ displayed his identification.

Identify the main idea.

2. The main idea of both stories is that

   a. robbery is profitable.

   b. carelessness causes mistakes.

   c. all criminals are caught.

Build your vocabulary.

3. A l_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ card is sealed between layers of clear plastic.

4. A broken-off piece of something is called a f_ _ _ _ _ _ _.

5. A p_ _ _ _ criminal is one who commits a minor crime.

6. An a_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ person looks nervous and jumpy.

7. An i_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ person is very, very angry.

8. A b_ _ _ _ _ _ performs a task badly.

9. To s_ _ _ _ _ is to make plans, especially secret or underhanded ones.

Draw conclusions.

10. The criminal in the second story intended to commit

    a. arson. b. burglary. c. forgery.

11. A check is "bad" if the writer

    a. has sloppy handwriting.

    b. has no money in the bank.

    c. folds it in half.

12. The criminal in the second story was caught quickly. His thumbprint must have been

    a. smudged.

    b. unusual.

    c. on file.

Match antonyms.

13. ____	stiff	a.	departed
14. ____	spend	b.	flexible
15. ____	returned	c.	reject
16. ____	accept	d.	withdrew
17. ____	inserted	e.	save

Look it up in a reference source.

18. In the 1930s, John Dillinger was a famous bank robber. When and how did he die?

    WHEN: ______________________

    HOW: ______________________

    ____

Read: *Do you take your U.S. citizenship for granted?*

BECOMING A CITIZEN

U.S. citizenship—it's a privilege few Americans ever think about. Most Americans gained citizenship at birth. Some, however, become citizens through a process called *naturalization*. For example, Peter Jennings, the well-known newsman, was born in Canada. He did not become a U.S. citizen until 2003—just two years before his death.

Like all new citizens, Jennings had to meet certain requirements. To be naturalized, all applicants must:

- get an application form from their local Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS);
- have lived in this country for at least five years;
- show good moral character and follow the laws of the U.S. Constitution;
- be able to read, write, and speak English;
- show a knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government;
- swear to support and defend the U.S. Constitution and its laws.

The naturalization process is not simple. The history test alone requires a great deal of study and commitment.



OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."

Naturalized citizens have the same rights and duties as those born in America. They can vote. They have the right to trial by jury. They pay taxes. They must serve in the armed forces if called upon. The only right a naturalized citizen does *not* have is the right to be this country's president or vice president.

It takes effort to gain U.S. citizenship. That's why it's a true privilege that new Americans seldom take for granted.

Reflect: *Think about the value of United States citizenship.*

1. Do you know anyone who has been naturalized? ____________

   If so, write a few sentences about that person.

   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____

2. What do you think is your most valuable right as a U.S. citizen?

   ____
   ____
   ____
   ____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

1. Which is *not* a way to become a U.S. citizen?
   a. visit the United States at least once a year
   b. be born in the United States

2. Which is *not* a requirement for becoming a citizen?
   a. understanding English
   b. being born in the United States

3. Which is a right of a naturalized U.S. citizen?
   a. to be the U.S. president
   b. to vote in U.S. elections

4. Which is a duty of a naturalized U.S. citizen?
   a. to work at the voting polls
   b. to serve in the armed forces if called upon

5. How long does a person have to live in the United States in order to become naturalized?
   a. one year
   b. five years

Build your vocabulary.

6. To be *naturalized* is to become a United States (soldier / citizen).

7. A *privilege* is a (benefit / task).

8. Another word for *allegiance* is (loyalty / slavery).

9. To *take something for granted* is to (recognize its value / fail to appreciate its value).

Draw conclusions.

10. Could these people be naturalized as U.S. citizens? Explain why each could or could not be naturalized.

- Robert was born in New York City. His parents are from Detroit, Michigan.

  ____

  ____

- Luis was born in Mexico City. He works as a Spanish-English translator. He has lived in Fresno, California, for 13 years.

  ____

  ____

- Anya was born and raised in the Ukraine. She moved to Oregon last year, and knows a few English words.

  ____

  ____

Look it up in a reference source.

11. The naturalization ceremony often takes place on Citizenship Day. What date is that? What is its history?

DATE: ______________________________

HISTORY: ______________________________

____

____

____

READ: *Learn about important court cases in American history.*

TWO LANDMARK COURT CASES

TITLE: ______________________

Dred Scott was tired of being a slave. He'd lived in Missouri, a slave state, most of his life. But his master had once taken him to live for a while in two free states, Illinois and Wisconsin.

Back in Missouri, Scott decided to take a chance when his master died in 1843. He took his master's widow to court and sued for his freedom. He claimed that the time he'd spent in free states had made him a free man. The case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1857 the Court ruled against him. It said that black people, free or slave, were not citizens—so they had no right to use the courts. It also reaffirmed slave owners' rights to control their own property. Therefore, the federal government had no right to forbid slavery.

Two months after the court's decision, Scott was sold to a new master—who freed him. But the problem of slavery in America was still unresolved.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

TITLE: ______________________

The place was Scottsboro, Alabama, and the year was 1931. There were bad feelings about a fight that had broken out between young whites and young blacks. The fight was stopped, but two white women were claiming that the blacks had raped them.

Eight of the nine black men were tried in court, found guilty, and sentenced to death. The American public had read about the case and listened to radio news reports. Many thought the trial had been unjust.

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed that the trial had been unfair. One of the women said she'd lied, and the other changed her story many times. But the state of Alabama wouldn't quit. Five of the young black men were sent to prison—one of them for up to 75 years!

Few Americans agreed that justice had been served. After that, black people fought even harder for their rights—and many white people joined them.

REFLECT: *What was the effect of these two court cases?*

1. Name two important similarities between the two court cases.
   - ______________________
     ____
   - ______________________
     ____
2. How many years separate the two trials? ____________
3. Do the events described take place in the North or the South? ____________
4. Write an appropriate title on the lines above each reading.

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Build your vocabulary.

1. The Scottsboro case could best be described as
   a. unprecedented.
   b. infamous.
   c. unequivocal.

2. An *unfair* verdict might also be called
   a. inequitable.
   b. indomitable.
   c. unequivocal.

3. The state of Alabama ___ the Supreme Court's ruling in the Scottsboro case.
   a. denied.
   b. deified.
   c. defied.

4. In the Dred Scott case, the Supreme Court ___ the rights of the slave owners.
   a. validated
   b. created
   c. disputed

Draw conclusions.

5. What is the job of the U.S. Supreme Court?
   a. to keep the states under control
   b. to interpret the laws of the land
   c. to enforce the death penalty

6. What principle was upheld by the Dred Scott decision?
   a. Missouri was not one of the free states.
   b. Slavery was a terrible problem in the United States.
   c. Citizens have rights that non-citizens do not.

7. Which statement is supported by both readings?
   a. The Supreme Court has far more power than state courts.
   b. The struggle for equal rights has been a long one.
   c. States cannot be forced to comply with Supreme Court rulings.

Complete the antonyms.

8. settled / u__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

9. innocent / g__ __ __ __ __

10. fair / u__ __ __ __ __

11. allow / f__ __ __ __ __

Look it up in a reference source.

12. Where is the United States Supreme Court located?

    ____

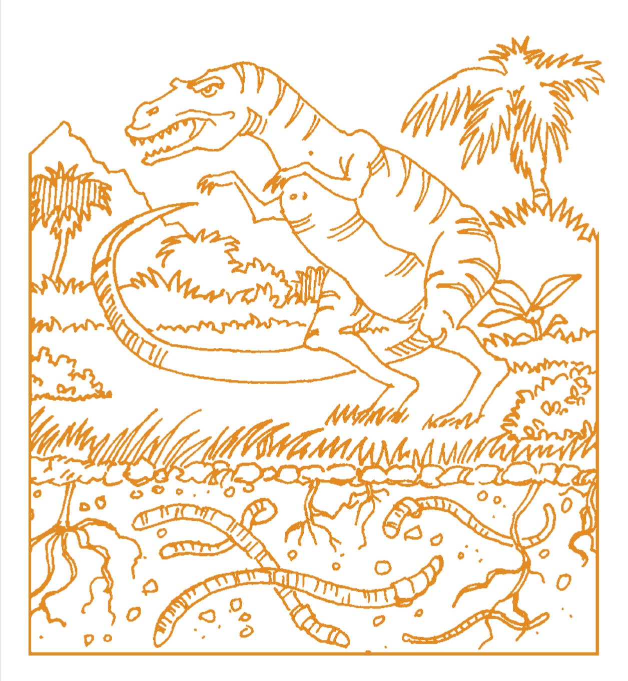
13. What amendment to the U.S. Constitution finally freed the slaves?

    ____

READ: ***Pay attention to detailed information.***

A FEW WORDS ABOUT WORMS

- Worms are blind, deaf, and spineless. But they are not weak creatures. When enough worms work together, they can transform entire forests and bury ancient ruins.
- You might find more than a million worms in a single acre of soil.
- There are more than 4,500 species of earthworms. Scientists say that many more species have yet to be identified.
- Worms' ancestors date back more than 250 million years. Worms have survived two mass extinctions—including the one that killed the dinosaurs.
- A worm is both male and female. To mate, worms line up head to tail. They can stay that way for several hours.
- In one small field, worms can turn over 10 to 18 tons of soil each year. They do this by tunneling, swallowing the soil, and bringing it back up to the surface.



- An ordinary night crawler lives about five years. Some giant Australian worms live for more than 20 years.
- A huge earthworm in the Pacific Northwest is two or three feet long. It secretes a mucus that smells like lilies.

REFLECT: ***Think about worms you have seen.***

1. Circle four adjectives that accurately describe common earthworms.

soft-bodied	slender	hooved	microscopic	stretchy
noisy	segmented	spiny	aggressive	bipedal

2. Write the names of two animals you know that eat worms.

   • ______________________ • ______________________

3. Does the reading tell what animals are related to worms? ______________

4. Does the reading name the three major groups of worms? ______________

RESPOND: *Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.*

Build your vocabulary.

1. Animals grouped by *species* are
   a. inhabitants of the same place.
   b. alike in important ways.
   c. identical in all ways.

2. In a *mass extinction*, animals
   a. eat too much food.
   b. devour one another.
   c. die out permanently.

3. To *secrete mucus* means to
   a. give off a slimy substance.
   b. catch a bad cold.
   c. hide out in moist places.

4. *Ancestors* are
   a. similar kinds of creatures.
   b. relatives like aunts and uncles.
   c. earlier members of a family.

5. To *transform* something is to
   a. transfer it to a zoo.
   b. change its condition or looks.
   c. carry it somewhere else.

Recall details.

6. According to the reading, what three body parts do worms lack?
   a. eyes, ears, backbones
   b. arms, legs, heads
   c. mouths, chins, tails

7. What do worms do that allows more air and water to enter the soil?
   a. make tunnels
   b. swallow and transport soil
   c. both of the above

Explain a process.

8. In your own words, describe the way an earthworm moves.

____

____

____

____

____

Fact or opinion? (Write F or O.)

9. ____ Worms are too slimy to pick up with your bare hands.

10. ____ Worms have lived on earth longer than many other animals.

Look it up in a reference source.

11. What is the most significant difference between a worm and a caterpillar?

____

____

____

____

12. Name two states in the Pacific Northwest.

- ______________________________
- ______________________________

READ: *Learn about a woman who saw her dream come true.*

WHO WAS GOLDA MEIR?

Golda Meir became famous as the first woman prime minister of Israel. Her achievement was very rare—especially for a 70-year-old!

Born in Kiev, Ukraine, Golda Mabovitch immigrated to the United States with her family in 1906. As a teenager, Golda became involved in Zionism and the dream of a Jewish homeland. After graduating from college, she taught school for a while in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In 1921, Golda emigrated to Palestine with her husband, Morris Myerson. There they joined a *kibbutz,* a kind of communal farm. In those days, people who settled on a kibbutz were hard-working pioneers. Thanks to their efforts, the desert was made to bloom! Today, there are hundreds of kibbutzim in Israel.

Golda became active in the Jewish labor movement. On May 14, 1948, she was one of those who signed Israel's independence declaration. That same year, she became Israel's first ambassador to the Soviet Union. She went on to hold posts as minister of foreign affairs and secretary-general of the Labor Party. In 1956, Golda took the Hebrew name "Meir."

Named prime minister in 1969, Golda set out to establish peace between Israel and the Arab nations. She worked with many world leaders to achieve that goal. But in spite of her efforts, the task proved to be too difficult. In 1973, Arab countries launched a surprise attack—and Israel was again at war. Golda resigned in 1974, shortly after Israel won that conflict. Israel's first woman prime minister died several years later, in 1978.

REFLECT: *Think about Golda Meir's achievements.*

1. Circle four words that could describe Golda Meir.

dogged	insincere	fickle	impressive	athletic	mysterious
dainty	vicious	timid	ambitious	disabled	intelligent

2. Besides Golda Meir, women such as Margaret Thatcher and Indira Gandhi have served as leaders of their countries. Do you think the United States will ever have a woman president? Explain your reasoning.

____

____

____

RESPOND: *Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.*

Draw conclusions.

1. In 1906, why couldn't Golda's parents move to Israel instead of the United States?

   ____

   ____

2. How old was Golda when she retired? ___________

3. Golda lived in the United States for ______ years.

Recall details.

4. Israel became an independent state in what year?

   ____

5. Morris Myerson was the name of Golda's ___________________.

6. Golda took her new name from what language?

   ____

7. At birth, Golda's last name was

   ___________________.

Number events in order.

8. Golda . . .
   - ____ took the name "Meir."
   - ____ taught school in Milwaukee.
   - ____ was named prime minister.
   - ____ became an ambassador.
   - ____ moved to Palestine.

Build your vocabulary. (Unscramble the words.)

9. A LOAMMUNC __________________ property is used or owned by all members of a group or community.

10. MISNOIZ __________________ is the worldwide movement that sought to establish and support a Jewish nation in Palestine.

11. When you GRINSE ______________, you voluntarily give up your paid or unpaid job.

12. REOSPINE ________________ are those who open the way for others to follow.

13. When you CHULNA ______________ something, you start or begin it.

14. To IMAGETRIM ________________ is to enter and settle in a country or region to which one is not native.

Look it up in a reference source.

15. What was the name of the war fought during Meir's term as prime minister?

    ____

16. Who became Israel's prime minister after Meir's resignation?

    ____

READ: *Learn more about a true man of genius.*

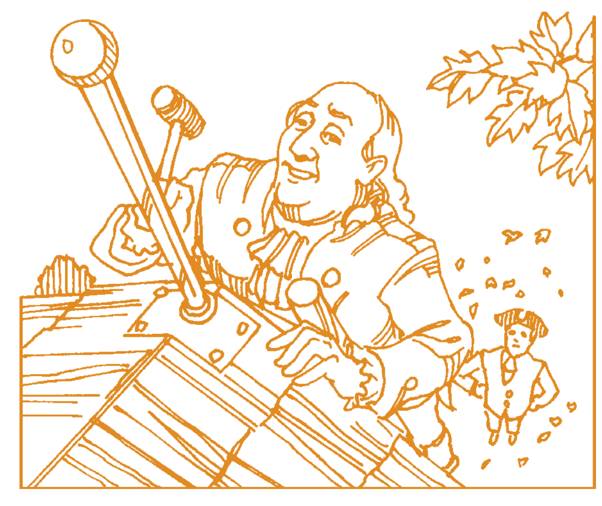
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, ELECTRICIAN

Usually, we think of Benjamin Franklin in his role as a "founding father" of the United States. But did you know that he was one of the most celebrated scientists of his day? Electricity was his specialty.

In fact, Franklin even helped to create the vocabulary of electricity. He was the first to use the words "positive" and "negative" to refer to electrical charges. Why did he call a method of storing electricity a "battery"? Because, like an array or *battery* of cannons, it could "fire" a charge. He was also the first person to call himself an "electrician."

Franklin's book, *Experiments and Observations on Electricity*, appeared *before* his famous "kite" experiment. Published in London, it was one of the most talked-about books of the age. It blazed through five editions in English, three in French, one in German, and one in Italian.

His real breakthrough was the lightning rod. In 1752, he installed the first lightning rod on the roof of the Pennsylvania State House. Although this wonderful invention protected buildings



by redirecting lightning into the ground, many did not approve. They believed that lightning was a manifestation of God's judgment! In 1755, Boston clergymen blamed the lightning rod for causing an earthquake. Why? They thought it had directed God's anger into the ground!

Franklin's scientific accomplishments were amazing—especially since he'd had only two years of formal schooling. He received honorary degrees from Harvard and Yale in 1753. In 1760, he was elected to fellowship in the British Royal Society. And in 1772, he became a member of the French Academy of Sciences.

REFLECT: *Think about the many uses of electricity.*

1. How was daily life different before people had the use of electricity? List three ways.

   • ________________________________

   • ________________________________

   • ________________________________

2. Circle the names of four people who lived during Franklin's time.

Attila the Hun	John Hancock	Queen Victoria	Joseph Stalin
Cleopatra	Thomas Jefferson	Nathan Hale	Patrick Henry
Abraham Lincoln	Henry Ford	Ghengis Kahn	Woodrow Wilson

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

1. Benjamin Franklin wrote a book about (government / electricity).
2. His book was published in (five / four) languages.
3. Franklin's lightning rod redirected lightning into the (ground / sky).
4. Two of the terms he invented were *electrician* and (*battery* / *neutron*).

Draw conclusions.

5. An "honorary degree" is bestowed
   a. after four years of academic work.
   b. to reward significant achievement.
   c. to honor the university.
6. Franklin's work with electricity took place
   a. while he was a very young man.
   b. in France, Germany, and Italy.
   c. before America's Revolutionary War.

Fact or opinion? (Write F or O.)

7. ____ The lightning rod once caused an earthquake.
8. ____ Franklin was highly regarded in Europe.
9. ____ Franklin was a multi-talented man.

Build your vocabulary.

10. A *b*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ is an important discovery or step in the progress of something.
11. An *a*__ __ __ __ of cannons is an arrangement in the proper order.
12. An *e*__ __ __ __ __ __ is all the copies of a book printed at the same time.

Look it up in a reference source.

13. What are the dates of Benjamin Franklin's birth and death?

    BIRTH: ______________________

    DEATH: ______________________

14. Franklin invented several items besides the lightning rod. Name two of his inventions.

    • ______________________
    • ______________________

READ: *Learn about three amazing horses in history.*

NOT YOUR ORDINARY HORSES

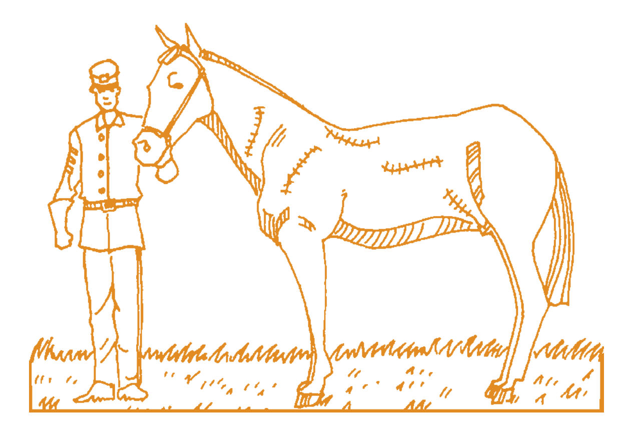
COMANCHE

Everybody knows what happened at Little Big Horn, Montana, in 1876. "Custer's Last Stand" against the Sioux and Cheyenne has often been depicted in movies and on TV. Less well-known is the fact that the sole survivor of the 7th Cavalry was Captain Keogh's horse, Comanche.

Amazingly, Comanche survived seven wounds in the neck, lung, and groin. To recuperate, Comanche was sent to Fort Lincoln, North Dakota. A special order forbade anyone to ride him. For the rest of his days, the legendary horse was paraded at special ceremonies. At every post he visited, he was allowed to roam free. In 1891—15 years after the Battle of Little Big Horn—Comanche died at Fort Riley, Kansas. He was 29 years old.

INCITATUS

Caligula, emperor of Rome from 37 to 47 A.D., was one of the most monstrous rulers of all time. But he lavished love on his beloved horse, Incitatus. He kept the horse inside the palace in a stable box of carved ivory. He dressed him in purple blankets and collars of precious stones.



Sometimes dinner guests were invited to the palace in the horse's name. And Caligula held parties at which Incitatus was the host. To top it off, the deranged emperor went even further. He was said to have seriously considered making Incitatus a consul of the empire!

MOIFAA

In 1904, a ship sailing from New Zealand to England was lost in a storm. Moifaa, a massive eight-year-old racehorse, was aboard. After nearly drowning, Moifaa was washed ashore on a desert island. He was stranded there for two weeks before finally being rescued.

Finally sent on to England, Moifaa was entered in the Grand National Steeplechase. Beating 25 other horses, he won by eight lengths!

REFLECT: *What are your thoughts about horses?*

1. What do you like *best* about horses? What do you like *least*?

BEST: ______________________________

LEAST: ______________________________

2. One of the horses in the readings was stuffed by a taxidermist. He's now on display in a museum in Lawrence, Kansas. Which horse do you think it is? Explain your thinking.

____

____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

1. In which state was Comanche wounded?

____

2. In which state did Comanche die?

____

3. Which two Native American tribes are mentioned in the readings?

- _______________________
- _______________________

True or false? (Write T or F.)

4. ____ Comanche was General Custer's horse.

5. ____ Incitatus lived in the first century A.D.

6. ____ Caligula was a Roman senator.

7. ____ Moifaa won an important race in England.

Draw conclusions.

8. Moifaa won a race "by eight lengths." In a horse race, *lengths* refers to the length of

a. a horse.

b. the race.

c. the track.

Recognize synonyms and antonyms.

Complete each pair with words from the box.

insane	valuable	forbidden	only
castle	perished	slender	guest

SYNONYMS

9. precious / _______________
10. sole / _______________
11. palace / _______________
12. deranged / _______________

ANTONYMS

13. survived / _______________
14. host / _______________
15. allowed / _______________
16. massive / _______________

Look it up in a reference source.

17. How does a steeplechase race differ from other horse races?

____

____

____

____

____

____

READ: *Learn more about the first physicians.*

FOREFATHERS OF MODERN MEDICINE

TITLE: ______________________

Hippocrates was a Greek physician born in 460 B.C. Regarded as the greatest physician of his time, he eventually became known as the founder of medicine.

In those ancient times, people believed that illness was caused by evil spirits or the disfavor of the gods. Hippocrates rejected those views.

He based his medical practice on observations of the human body. Hippocrates was the first physician to accurately describe disease symptoms. He also noted that some people were better able to cope with illness than others. He believed in the natural healing process of rest, a good diet, fresh air, and cleanliness. And he was the first physician to declare that thoughts and feelings come from the brain instead of from the heart.

Hippocrates founded a medical school in Greece and taught his ideas there. The Oath of Medical Ethics he developed is still taken by physicians today as they begin their medical practice.

TITLE: ______________________

Galen lived six centuries after Hippocrates. He crystallized all the best work of the Greek medical schools that preceded his own time.

Galen wrote more than 100 articles about how the human body functions. How important was his work? For almost 1,400 years, doctors believed nearly everything Galen had written!

He made many crucial discoveries. For example, he learned that arteries carry blood. (At that time, it was thought that arteries carried air.)

As a surgeon, Galen treated the wounds of the gladiators. Also among his patients were the emperors Marcus Aurelius, Lucius Verus, Commodus, and Septimus Severus.

Galen made most of his findings by dissecting animals. His knowledge of human anatomy was limited. Why? Because dissecting human bodies was illegal then. Yet in spite of Galen's misconceptions, the wealth of accurate detail in his writings is astonishing.

REFLECT: *Think about the early days of medicine.*

1. Think of a good title for each reading. Write your titles on the lines above the reading.

2. In your opinion, what makes a good doctor? Name two characteristics.

- ______________________
- ______________________

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Build your vocabulary. *(Unscramble the words.)*

1. MOSTPYMS ________________ are signs of a disease or disorder.
2. Human OATMYNA ______________ is the study of the body's structure and parts.
3. To SIDTECS ________________ an animal is to cut it up in order to study its parts.
4. EERIRATS ________________ are blood vessels that carry blood from the heart to the rest of the body.
5. HITSEC ________________ is the study of right and wrong behavior.
6. A *founder* is someone who (finds / starts) something.
7. Your *views* are your (thoughts / guesses) about various topics.
8. An event that (preceded / proceeded) another happened first.

Draw a conclusion.

9. According to the reading, Galen was born about (140 A.D. / 1060 B.C.).
10. The oath of medical ethics taken by physicians today is called the (Hippocratic / Symptomatic) oath.

Give an example.

11. Name two symptoms of the common cold.
    - ____________________________
    - ____________________________

Make an inference.

12. Hippocrates (was / was not) familiar with Galen's work.

Identify synonyms.

manage	injuries	claim
important	doctor	incomplete

13. physician / ____________________
14. limited / ____________________
15. wounds / ____________________
16. cope / ____________________
17. declare / ____________________
18. crucial / ____________________

Look it up in a reference source.

19. Marcus Aurelius was one of Galen's famous patients. What are the dates of his reign as the Emperor of Rome?

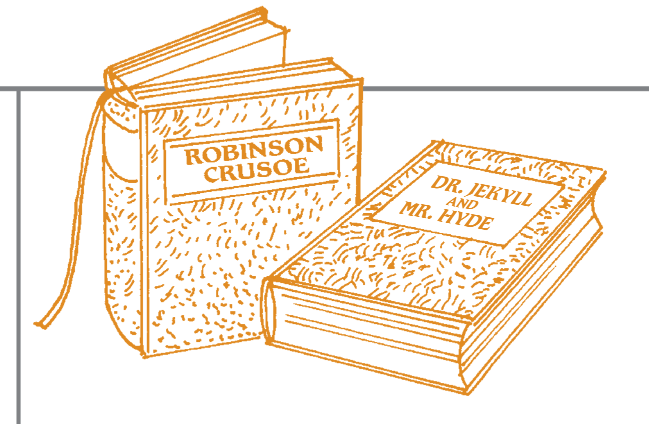
    ____

20. Marcus Aurelius wrote a book that is still read today. What's the name of that book?

    ____

READ: *Where do authors get ideas for their story characters?*

FICTION BASED ON FACT



Alexander Selkirk was born in 1676 in Largo, Scotland. As a teenager, Alexander found village life boring. So he ran off to sea and joined the crew of a notorious privateer, William Dampier.

But Dampier was a reckless captain. He actually planned to sail around Cape Horn in the height of the storm season. Selkirk objected—and insisted on being put ashore on a tiny island off South America. He was sure it wouldn't be long until a ship bound for England found him there. The year was 1704.

As the months passed, Selkirk had to use all his wits to stay alive. He learned to make fire by rubbing sticks together. He made clothes from goatskins, stitching them up with a nail. For thread he used wool strands unraveled from a pair of stockings. He made a new knife from the iron hoops of a washed up barrel. It was four years and four months before he was finally rescued.

Selkirk was interviewed upon his return to Scotland. A freelance writer named Daniel Defoe read the interview. Years later, Defoe used Selkirk as the model for his famous fictional character, Robinson Crusoe.

Born in 1741, William Brodie was a respected member of the town council in Edinburgh, Scotland. By night, however, he was a masked thief and the leader of a gang of robbers! Eventually, he was arrested and sentenced to death.

On the day of his hanging, Brodie bribed the hangman to ignore a steel collar he was wearing. His hope was to be revived quickly after defeating the noose. But the hangman betrayed him. He took Brodie's money *and* removed the steel collar! Brodie's body was buried in an unmarked grave.

Robert Louis Stevenson, the author, was intrigued by newspaper accounts of Brodie's double life. His famous novel, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, was largely inspired by Brodie's life and character.

REFLECT: *Can you relate to the lives of either man?*

Do you think you have what it takes to survive in the wild?
Explain why or why not.

____

____

____

____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

Write **B** for *Brodie* or **S** for *Selkirk*.

1. ____ was a respected citizen
2. ____ born in the 17th century
3. ____ feared a shipwreck
4. ____ sentenced to death
5. ____ was a bored teenager
6. ____ born in the 18th century

Draw conclusions.

7. How old was Selkirk when he first arrived on the island?

____

8. Which book was written first—*Robinson Crusoe* or *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*?

____

Build your vocabulary.

9. A *n*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ person is well-known for doing something bad.

10. A *r*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ person might also be called *careless* or *rash*.

11. A *p*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ is someone hired by the government to attack enemy ships.

12. A *f*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ sells his or her work to different buyers at different times.

13. To *b*__ __ __ __ someone is to offer a reward for doing something wrong.

14. A *r*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ person has a good reputation.

15. To be *i*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ by something is to have one's interest or curiosity stimulated.

Match antonyms.

16. ____ objected — a. unearthed
17. ____ exciting — b. abandoned
18. ____ rescued — c. agreed
19. ____ buried — d. boring

Make an inference.

20. What kind of animals can we be sure lived on Selkirk's island?

____

Look it up in a reference source.

21. Name another well-known book written by Daniel DeFoe.

____

22. Name another well-known book written by Robert Louis Stevenson.

____

READ: *How much do you know about the Taj Mahal?*

A TEARDROP ON THE CHEEK OF TIME

The Taj Mahal is one of the most beautiful and costly tombs in the world. An architectural wonder, the splendid tomb stands at Agra, India, on the banks of the River Yamuna. Between 1632 and 1643, it was built by some 20,000 workmen.

The Indian emperor Shah Jahan built the Taj in memory of his wife. Her royal title, Mumatz Mahal, which means "pride of the palace," gave the building its name. She died while accompanying her husband on a campaign to crush a rebellion. Her death was devastating to the emperor. Within a few months, his hair and beard were said to have turned snow white!

A monument of love, the white marble mausoleum appears to change color at different hours of the day. Because of the semi-precious stones laid in the marble, it is pinkish in the morning, milky white in the evening, and golden in the light of the moon. Many visitors have said that the Taj Mahal "has a life of its own that leaps out of the marble."

The Taj rests on an eight-sided platform made of red sandstone. At each corner of the platform stands a slender prayer tower, called a *minaret*. Each tower is 133 feet high, and the building itself is 186 feet square. Covering the central part of the building, the dome is 70 feet in diameter and 120 feet high. A central room contains two monuments, or *cenotaphs*. Visitors can look at the monuments through a screen of carved alabaster. The bodies of Shah Jahan and his wife lie in a vault below. The tomb stands in an ornamental garden, where its image is reflected in shimmering pools.

A picture postcard of the Taj Mahal cannot fully convey its romance or poetic beauty. The famous Indian author Rabindranath Tagore called it "a teardrop on the cheek of time." The English poet Sir Edwin Arnold declared that the Taj is " . . . not a piece of architecture, as other buildings are, but the proud passion of an emperor's love wrought in living stones."

REFLECT: *Think about different kinds of memorials.*

1. Name two ways that ordinary people memorialize their dead loved ones.
   - ______________________________
     ____
   - ______________________________
     ____

2. Circle four words that could describe the Taj Mahal.

   enormous | paltry
   streamlined | playful
   touching | modern
   spectacular | ornate

RESPOND: *Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.*

True or false? (Write T or F.)

1. ____ The Taj Mahal is on the Ganges River.

2. ____ Shah Jahan was once the emperor of India.

3. ____ Cenotaphs are screens of carved alabaster.

4. ____ Shah Jahan and his wife are buried in the dome.

5. ____ The Taj Mahal is famous for its architecture.

Draw conclusions.

6. About how many years ago was the Taj Mahal completed?
   a. 3,600 b. 360 c. 260

7. Shah Jahan was an extremely ___ man.
   a. thrifty
   b. wealthy
   c. handsome

8. A very large, decorated tomb is called a ___.
   a. wonder
   b. vault
   c. mausoleum

Recognize cause and effect.

9. What causes the marble of the Taj Mahal to change color?
   ____
   ____

10. What effect did Mumatz Mahal's death have on her husband?
    ____
    ____

Build your vocabulary.

11. A round roof shaped like half of a globe is called a
    a. dome.
    b. minaret.
    c. tomb.

12. An armed fight against the government of one's own country is called a
    a. mutiny.
    b. rebellion.
    c. skirmish.

13. The Taj Mahal is one of the world's most famous
    a. artworks.
    b. dedications.
    c. memorials.

Look it up in a reference source.

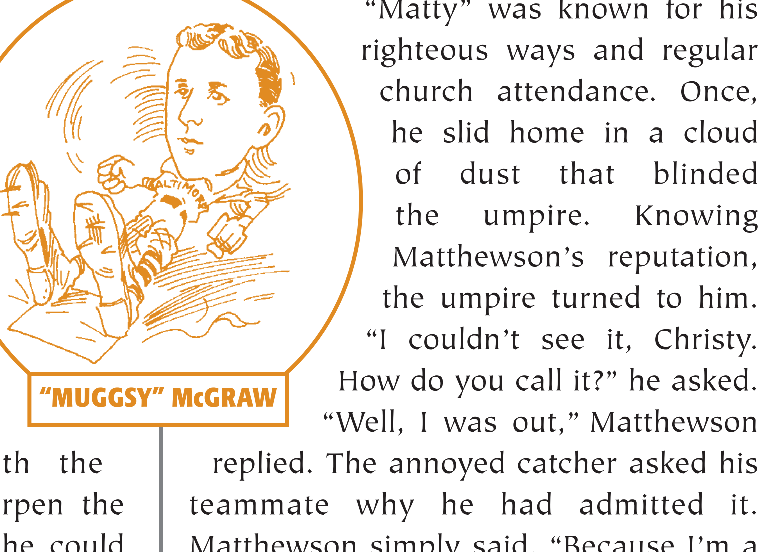
14. The Taj Mahal is often considered the eighth "Wonder of the World." What are the other seven?
    - ______________________________
    - ______________________________
    - ______________________________
    - ______________________________
    - ______________________________
    - ______________________________
    - ______________________________

READ: *Their names were famous 100 years ago!*

BASEBALL'S EARLY DAYS: MUGGSY AND MATTY

The great era of the New York Giants began in 1902. That's when John J. "Muggsy" McGraw teamed up with Christy "Matty" Matthewson.

McGraw, an Irishman, was rough around the edges, to say the least. Because nearly his entire family had been wiped out in a diphtheria epidemic, he was virtually an orphan. He was only 12 years old when his schooling ended. Although recognized as a great leader, he was downright mean and vindictive on the playing field.



"MUGGSY" McGRAW

When McGraw played with the Orioles, he was known to sharpen the spikes on his shoes. Why? So he could "spike" opposing players and umpires! One indignant umpire grumbled, "McGraw starts each day by eating gunpowder and washing it down with warm blood."

Christy Matthewson, on the other hand, could rightly be called the first All-American Boy. He'd gone to Bucknell College at a time when only 6 percent of Americans graduated from high school. And more than a college baseball star, he'd played in the band, sung in the glee club, and also written poetry.

"Matty" was known for his righteous ways and regular church attendance. Once, he slid home in a cloud of dust that blinded the umpire. Knowing Matthewson's reputation, the umpire turned to him. "I couldn't see it, Christy. How do you call it?" he asked. "Well, I was out," Matthewson replied. The annoyed catcher asked his teammate why he had admitted it. Matthewson simply said, "Because I'm a church elder."

With this unlikely pair, the Giants quickly became champions. They played in their first World Series in 1905. Matthewson pitched three shutouts in six days—a feat never again duplicated. And in 1914, the Giants won 26 games in a row. That's still a major league record.

REFLECT: *Think about leaders you've known.*

1. What characteristics do you think make a "great leader"? Name three or four.

____

____

____

2. Who are some of your favorite baseball stars today? ____________________

____

RESPOND: *Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.*

Search for information. (Write *yes* or *no.*)

Does the reading tell you

1. ____ if Muggsy and Matty played for the Giants in 1914?
2. ____ how much education each man had?
3. ____ what position each man played?
4. ____ what they did for work when their playing days were over?
5. ____ about each man's reputation?

Build your vocabulary.

6. *D*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ is a serious throat disease caused by a germ.
7. A *r*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ person is fair, just, and virtuous.
8. An *e*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ is the rapid spreading of a contagious disease to many people at the same time.
9. Rhythmic writing in language that shows imagination and deep feeling is called *p*__ __ __ __ __ .
10. An *i*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ person is angry about something that seems unfair or mean.

Draw conclusions.

11. Around 1900, what percentage of young Americans did *not* graduate from high school?

    ____

12. A "shutout" must be a game in which the opposing team
    a. doesn't get a hit.
    b. goes scoreless.
    c. is barred from the field.
13. The phrase "eating gunpowder and washing it down with blood" is an example of
    a. baseball terminology.
    b. figurative language.
    c. literal language.
14. A "virtual" orphan probably
    a. has a few distant relatives.
    b. is virtuous and admired.
    c. doesn't like his parents.

Identify synonyms.

15. ____ vindictive — a. irritated
16. ____ sharpen — b. accomplishment
17. ____ annoyed — c. hone
18. ____ feat — d. vengeful

Look it up in a reference source.

19. The Giants don't play for New York anymore. In what city are they home based now?

    ____

READ: ***Have you ever heard of this historic baseball star?***

WHO WAS "COOL PAPA" BELL?

James Bell was probably the fastest runner in baseball history. But only white men were allowed to play big league baseball in his day. That's why it's often said that he was one of the greatest players *never* to play in the majors!

For 28 years, Bell starred in the Negro Leagues. This organization was founded in 1920 to give black men the chance to play organized baseball. Bell earned his nickname, "Cool Papa," for being so calm when under pressure. Cool Papa was terrific at bat. For several seasons, his batting average was over .400. But his speed, both as a base-runner and a center fielder, was even more spectacular.

JAMES THOMAS BELL
"COOL PAPA"
NEGRO LEAGUES 1922–1950
COMBINED SPEED, DARING, AND BATTING SKILL TO RANK AMONG BEST PLAYERS IN NEGRO LEAGUES. CONTEMPORARIES RATED HIM FASTEST MAN ON BASE PATHS. HIT OVER .300 REGULARLY, TOPPING .400 ON OCCASION. PLAYED 29 SUMMERS AND 21 WINTERS OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL.
NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM
Cooperstown, New York

Bell's fellow players were in awe of him—along with the Negro League fans. They loved to tell exaggerated stories in honor of Cool Papa's speedy feet. The great Satchel Paige, for example, roomed with Bell when they both played for the Pittsburgh Crawfords. Paige liked to boast that Bell was so fast he could turn out the light and be in bed before the room got dark!

Another story claimed that he once rounded second base and got hit with his own ground ball. Yet another unlikely story said that he once scored all the way from first base on a sacrifice bunt!

Perhaps Bell's greatest moment was choosing not to play at all. It was the closing day of the 1946 season. Bell was hitting .402. He needed just a few more at-bats to win the batting title. But he'd heard that the major leagues were about to integrate black players. He wanted young fellow player Monte Irvin to be noticed by the scouts. So he decided not to play so Irvin could win the crown.

Cool Papa himself was offered a chance to play for the Browns in 1951—but he was nearly 48 years old! Integration had come too late for him.

REFLECT: ***Think about "Cool Papa" Bell and the Negro League.***

1. Circle four adjectives that could describe "Cool Papa" Bell.

shy	temperamental	unselfish	gifted	reclusive	educated
speedy	humorless	enduring	husky	coddled	wealthy

2. Do you think you could give up your chance to be a major league player? Explain why or why not.

____

3. Imagine you are a player on a Negro baseball team in the 1920s. How would you feel about being excluded from playing in the major leagues?

____

____

____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

1. James "Cool Papa" Bell is remembered for his
   a. exaggerated stories.
   b. clever nickname.
   c. amazing talents.

2. The first Negro League games were played in
   a. 1951. b. 1920. c. Georgia.

3. In the history of organized baseball, very few players have
   a. batted .400.
   b. scored on a sacrifice bunt.
   c. been so calm under pressure.

4. "Cool Papa" played in the Negro Leagues from
   a. 1920 to 1944.
   b. 1921 to 1945.
   c. 1922 to 1950.

Draw a conclusion.

5. "Cool Papa" was born in
   a. 1903. b. 1915. c. 1899.

Build your vocabulary.

6. Until the major leagues were *i*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __, there were no black players.

7. To *e*__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ is to make something seem better or greater than it really is.

8. To *b*__ __ __ is to tap a pitched baseball so lightly that it doesn't leave the infield.

9. A *s*__ __ __ __ is hired to find talented players who might make it in the big leagues.

Make an inference.

10. How do you know that "Cool Papa" supported the advancement of young black athletes?

____

____

____

____

Look it up in a reference source.

11. Write two facts about Josh Gibson, another outstanding player in the Negro Leagues.

- ______________________________
  ____
- ______________________________
  ____

READ: *Learn more about a pair of remarkable women.*

TWO WOMEN IN WARTIME



In March 1781, Robert Shurtleff joined Washington's troops near New York. The 21-year-old proved his bravery in a battle along the Hudson River. He suffered a sword cut on his hand and a bullet wound in his leg. In another battle, he helped capture an important hill overlooking the British camp.

Shortly after that battle, Robert Shurtleff came down with a high fever. The doctor who examined him was shocked. He found that Robert was really a woman named Deborah Sampson! She'd disguised herself as a man so she could help to defend her country. Her commanding officer lost no time sending her home.

In 1862, Union soldiers were overrunning the beautiful state of Virginia. A Virginia girl named Belle Boyd could not just sit by. The pretty 17-year-old helped the Confederate Army. She flirted with Union soldiers and found out as much as she could about their plans. Little did they know that she was turning over the information to the Confederate army.

Belle was arrested twice for spying. The first time she was let go. The second time, her Union guard fell in love with her. After she was released, Belle and the guard ran off to England and were married.

REFLECT: *Think about women in nontraditional roles.*

1. Circle four words that could describe the women in these readings.

   bold delicate fit daring brutal uncommitted passive adventurous

2. Do you think it's a good idea for women to fight on the battlefield? Explain why or why not.

   ____

   ____

   ____

   ____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

1. By what two weapons was Robert Shurtleff wounded?

   ____

2. Who were Americans fighting against in 1781?

   ____

3. Belle Boyd's loyalties were with which side?

   ____

Match synonyms.

inspected	wed	protect
astonished	aided	courage

4. defend / ______________________
5. shocked / ______________________
6. helped / ______________________
7. married / ______________________
8. bravery / ______________________
9. examined / ______________________

Draw conclusions.

10. Belle Boyd was born about
    a. 1815.
    b. 1845.
    c. 1820.

11. A "commanding officer" might be a
    a. sergeant.
    b. corporal.
    c. captain.

12. Robert Shurtleff fought in the
    a. Spanish-American War.
    b. French and Indian War.
    c. Revolutionary War.

13. Confederate soldiers fought for the
    a. northern states.
    b. southern states.
    c. British.

Compare and contrast.

14. Which woman in the readings was older at the time of her military service?

    ____

    How much older? ______________

Build your vocabulary.

15. To TRIFL ______________ is to try to attract someone romantically.

16. If you are SIDUESDIG ______________, you are trying to hide your true identity.

17. When you have a EFREV ______________, your body temperature rises.

Look it up in a reference source.

18. Write Deborah Sampson's dates of birth and death.

    BIRTH: ______________________

    DEATH: ______________________

READ: ***Learn about a notable woman in American history.***

WHO WAS MOTHER JONES?

The elderly woman in the plain black dress was only five feet tall. Behind her spectacles, her blue eyes twinkled. Her snow-white hair was knotted at the nape of her neck. Why would a West Virginia district attorney call this little lady "the most dangerous woman in America"?

As a young woman, Mary Harris led an unremarkable life. When she was a girl, her family had emigrated from Ireland to Canada. She worked as a teacher for a while before marrying in 1861. Her husband, George Jones, worked as an iron molder in Memphis, Tennessee. Just six years after her marriage, the unthinkable happened. Mary's husband and their four children died—all within one week—in a terrible yellow fever epidemic.

After the epidemic had run its course, Mary moved to Chicago. There she found work as a dressmaker. But tragedy seemed to follow her. She lost everything she owned in the great Chicago fire of 1871. It was then that Mary got involved in the labor movement.

Mary decided to adopt the American working people as her family. For the next half-century, she fought for better pay and working conditions for miners, women, and tradesmen. An impressive speaker, she participated in strikes and organized drives for various unions. In tribute, the workers she represented called her "Mother Jones."

In her mid-eighties, she was arrested and sentenced to 20 years in prison. Her crime? She'd led a protest against the nightmarish working conditions in a West Virginia coal mine. Her popularity with ordinary workers forced the government to investigate, however, and she was set free.

In the U.S. Senate, Mother Jones was denounced as the "mother of all agitators." Proud of that title, Mary responded, "I hope to live to be the great-grandmother of all agitators." At age 93, she was still working among striking coal miners. Mary was 100 when she died. She is buried in the Union Miners Cemetery in Mount Olive, Illinois.

REFLECT: ***How much difference can one person make?***

1. What do you think motivated Mary Jones to do what she did?

____

2. Do you think the union movement benefitted the lives of workers? Give examples to prove your point.

____

____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details. Write T for true or F for false.

1. ____ Mary moved from Ireland to the United States.
2. ____ Mary's family died in the great Chicago fire.
3. ____ Mary was a leader in America's labor movement.
4. ____ Mary was criticized for her work with unions.
5. ____ Ordinary working people were helped by Mary's work.

Match synonyms and antonyms.

applauded	lawyer	ordinary
impressive	comedy	dressmaker

SYNONYMS

6. seamstress / ____________________
7. attorney / ____________________
8. unremarkable / ____________________

ANTONYMS

9. tragedy / ____________________
10. denounced / ____________________
11. laughable / ____________________

Draw conclusions.

12. Circle two examples of "nightmarish working conditions."

overtime	no vacations
filthy air	no sick leave
rude bosses	unsafe machinery

Build your vocabulary.

13. An TRANEMIG ________________ leaves one country to settle in another.
14. Workers who join a labor NOUNI ________________ have come together to protect and further their interests.
15. A KITSER ________________ is a work stoppage until certain demands are met.
16. A TUBETIR ________________ is something given or said to show respect and gratitude.
17. An ROTATIGA ________________ is someone who says or does things to stir up people to make changes.
18. In Mother Jones's time, eyeglasses were called PLACESECTS ________________.

Look it up in a reference source.

19. Write a sentence about the "children's crusade" Mother Jones led in 1903.

____
____
____
____
____
____

READ: *Learn about one boy's amazing contribution.*

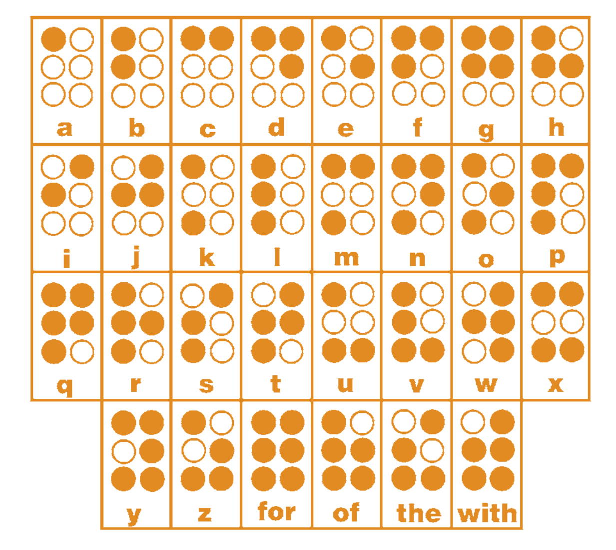
BRAILLE: A TEENAGER'S INVENTION

The six-dot system of tangible writing was developed by Louis Braille in the 1820s. At the time, he was a student at the National Institute for Blind Children in Paris, France. An accident had robbed the boy of his sight when he was just three years old.

Braille had begun his work by studying a 12-point system invented in 1819 by Captain Charles Barbier. Barbier had originally designed his system for the military. He intended it to help troops pass messages along the trenches without being seen or heard.

Braille saw the potential in Barbier's "night writing" system. So, after three years of experimentation, he developed the current system at the tender age of 15.

Braille based his system on a basic array of six dots: two wide by three high. From the 63 possible arrangements of the dots, he worked out an alphabet, punctuation marks, and numerals. Later, Louis Braille even adapted his system for writing music.



Visually challenged people read Braille by placing their fingers on the raised dots. Some can read 200 words a minute!

Until his death in 1852, Louis Braille remained at the Institute as a teacher.

REFLECT: *Think about Louis Braille and the amazing system he developed.*

1. Louis Braille's story exemplifies which of these old sayings? Explain your reasoning.

   a. *Too many cooks spoil the soup.*

   b. *Necessity is the mother of invention.*

   c. *An apple a day keeps the doctor away.*

   EXPLANATION: ______________________________

   ____

   ____

   ____

2. Circle three words below that could describe Louis Braille.

intelligent	sighted	creative
innovative	limited	deaf

3. Write your name in Braille.

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Recall details.

1. The first person to develop a "touch system" for reading was (Louis Braille / Charles Barbier).
2. The Braille system was invented in the (1830s / 1820s).
3. The 12-point system was created for the use of (students / soldiers).
4. A person reads Braille by touching raised (dashes / dots).

Draw conclusions.

5. How old was Louis Braille when he first began work on his reading system?

   a. 15 b. 17 c. 12

6. Louis Braille ___ Barbier's 12-point system.

   a. simplified
   b. complicated
   c. explained

7. The first Braille texts were probably written in

   a. English.
   b. shorthand.
   c. French.

Build your vocabulary. *(Unscramble the words.)*

8. Something that's been changed to make it more usable has been DATAPED ________________.
9. If something is ELBGIANT ________________, it's able to be touched or felt.
10. The armed forces are also called the LIMITYAR ________________.
11. Something has ATENTLIOP ________________ if it's capable of coming into being but hasn't actually done so.
12. SECHNERT ________________ were long ditches bordered by piles of dirt to protect soldiers in battle.

Look it up in a reference source.

13. When was the first book in Braille published?

    ____

14. Put a check by *three* events that happened in the 1820s.

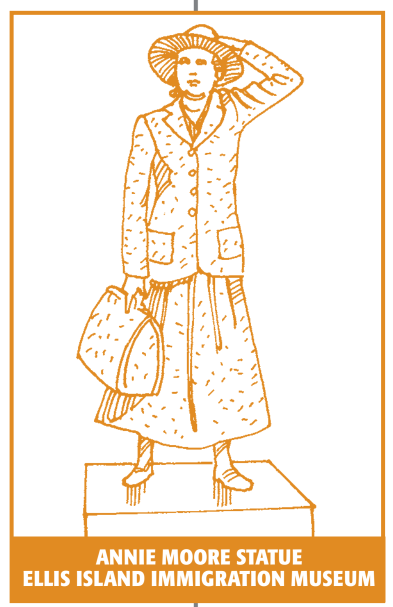
    ____ The Erie Canal was finished.
    ____ Babe Ruth hit 60 home runs.
    ____ Gas lamps lit the streets of Boston.
    ____ Hitler reorganized the Nazi Party.
    ____ John Quincy Adams became the sixth U.S. president.
    ____ Lindbergh flew nonstop from New York to Paris.

READ: *Did you realize that we're a nation of immigrants?*

ELLIS ISLAND: THE GOLDEN DOOR

From 1892 to 1954, more than 12 million immigrants to the United States streamed through Ellis Island. Located in New York Harbor, Ellis Island is the site of our nation's first federal immigration station.

The first immigrant to be processed there was Annie Moore, a young Irish girl. It was January 1, 1892—Annie's 15th birthday. After she was registered, an immigration official presented her with a $10.00 gold Liberty coin. Like Annie, the newcomers who came after her brought with them their hopes and dreams of a better life in a new land.



ANNIE MOORE STATUE
ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION MUSEUM

There were many reasons for people to leave the old world and emigrate to America. Some came to escape poverty and hunger. Others came because they were ruled by unjust governments. All of them had heard that America was a land of freedom and opportunity.

The immigrants came to Ellis Island on steamships. Since most were poor, they'd made the long ocean voyage in steerage. Steerage quarters were at the bottom of the ship. They were dark, dirty, and overcrowded with hundreds of passengers. Many travelers had spent the two-week trip seasick in their bunks. Some died on the way. By the time the immigrants finally arrived, they were exhausted—and usually very fearful.

Ellis Island was a scary place. All newcomers had to undergo medical and legal inspections before entering the country. What if they were turned away? The inspections took place in the cavernous Great Hall. There, a doctor would quickly scan the immigrant for obvious physical ailments. Typically, the physician's exam lasted six seconds. The doctor was looking out for some 60 ailments or contagious diseases. Immigrants whose poor health would prevent them from earning a living—or threaten the public welfare—would be refused entry.

After the physical, immigrants would wait on benches in the Great Hall. Then, one by one, they were called by a legal inspector. The inspector checked the ship's manifest to see how the immigrant had answered questions about his or her background. At the inspector's desk, the immigrant repeated the answers, sometimes with the help of an interpreter. Usually, this just took a few minutes. Records show that 98% of immigrants finally passed inspection. Only 2% (approximately 250,000 immigrants) were returned to their country of origin. Because of those who were sent back, however, Ellis Island was sometimes called the "Island of Tears."

In the early 1900s, some thought that the great wave of immigration had peaked. But it was actually on the rise! In 1907 alone, some 1.25 million immigrants were processed at Ellis Island. Workers on the island struggled to enlarge and build new facilities to handle the crowds. Hospital buildings, dormitories, and kitchens were feverishly constructed by 1915.

After World War I, prospective immigrants applied for visas at American consulates in their home countries. The necessary paperwork and medical inspections were conducted there, too. After 1924, Ellis Island was no longer an inspection station. Instead it was primarily a detention facility for suspected enemies of the United States. A Norwegian merchant seaman named Arne Peterssen was the last detainee. When he was released in 1954, Ellis Island officially closed. Limitations in new U.S. immigration laws had also played a role in its closure.

Ellis Island's grand brick and limestone buildings gradually deteriorated in the harbor's harsh weather. Officials became concerned about losing this vital part of America's immigrant history. Private citizens mounted a campaign to preserve the island. In 1965, it was designated as part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. That led to one of the most ambitious restoration projects in American history. The main building was reopened to the public in 1990. Now, nearly two million people visit the Ellis Island Immigration Museum each year.

Immigrants still come to the United States—although not in the numbers they once did. In recent years many people from Mexico and Central America have come to live here. Refugees also came from such countries as Cuba, Vietnam, and the Soviet Union. Like the immigrants of 100 years ago, they make our country's life richer. America's mix of cultures, talents, and skills is still one of our greatest sources of our strength and pride.



REFLECT: ***Think about the people who immigrate to the United States.***

1. Did you or someone you know come to America from another country? Write names and countries of origin.

   NAME: ______________________ COUNTRY: ______________________

   NAME: ______________________ COUNTRY: ______________________

2. Do you think Americans are welcoming to people from other countries? Give at least one example to support your opinion.

   ____

   ____

   ____

RESPOND: ***Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.***

Draw conclusions.

1. Ellis Island is located on America's (east / west) coast.
2. Immigrants arrived at Ellis Island after crossing the (Pacific / Atlantic) Ocean.
3. Immigrants who spoke no English needed an (inspection / interpreter).
4. Immigrants who arrived at Ellis Island came from (Asia / Europe).

Match synonyms.

potential	national	captured
doctor	communicable	

5. federal / ______________________
6. contagious / ______________________
7. caught / ______________________
8. prospective / ______________________
9. physician / ______________________

Build your vocabulary.

10. D_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ is forced delay or confinement.
11. To e_ _ _ _ _ _ _ is to leave one country or region to settle in another.
12. F_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ are buildings or rooms used for certain activities.
13. R_ _ _ _ _ _ _ are those who flee from their home or country to seek refuge from war, persecution, etc.
14. D_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ are large buildings or rooms with beds for a number of people.
15. A v_ _ _ _ _ is a journey by water, air, or into outer space.

Recall details. *(Write* ***T*** *for true or* ***F*** *for false.)*

16. ____ About 90% of immigrants passed inspection at Ellis Island.
17. ____ The buildings on Ellis Island were restored in the last half of the 20th century.
18. ____ Immigration dwindled in the early 1900s.
19. ____ Every new immigrant was inspected for several days.
20. ____ After 1924, Ellis Island was no longer an inspection station.

Make inferences.

21. Your "country of origin" is where you
    a. are going.
    b. were born.
    c. are welcome.

22. Something that "plays a role in" something else
    a. pretends to be genuine.
    b. is a kind of substitute.
    c. influences the outcome.

23. The food offered to passengers in steerage was probably
    a. of gourmet quality.
    b. a lot like dog food.
    c. plain and scanty.

24. Steerage passengers probably felt
    a. a mixture of fear and hope.
    b. sorry they'd left home.
    c. afraid of each other.

25. People probably traveled in steerage because
    a. it was like camping.
    b. the fare was low.
    c. they avoided sunburn.

Recognize antonyms.

26. Some countries had *unjust* governments.
    a. old b. fair c. faulty

27. They were *exhausted* by the time they arrived.
    a. poor
    b. overworked
    c. invigorated

28. Mexicans are some of our *recent* immigrants.
    a. historic
    b. friendly
    c. legal

29. *Typically*, the exam lasted six seconds.
    a. normally
    b. probably
    c. rarely

Fact or Opinion? (Write **F** or **O**.)

30. ____ It wasn't fair for our government to turn away sick immigrants.

31. ____ Immigrants to the United States should learn to speak English right away.

32. ____ Laws governing immigration have changed over the years.

33. ____ Immigrants have played a vital role in the history of the United States.

Look it up in a reference source.

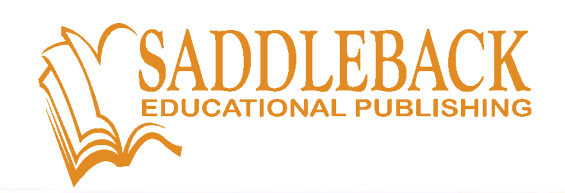
34. What document allows legal aliens to legally work in the United States?

    ____

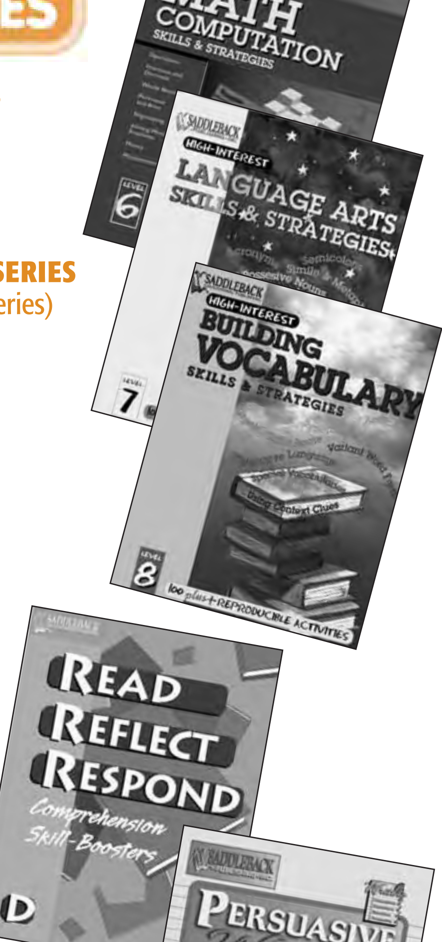
35. In 1908, what poem was carved at the base of the Statue of Liberty? Who wrote the poem?

    ____
    ____
    ____
    ____
    ____
    ____
    ____
    ____
    ____
    ____
    ____

    by: ____________________________



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